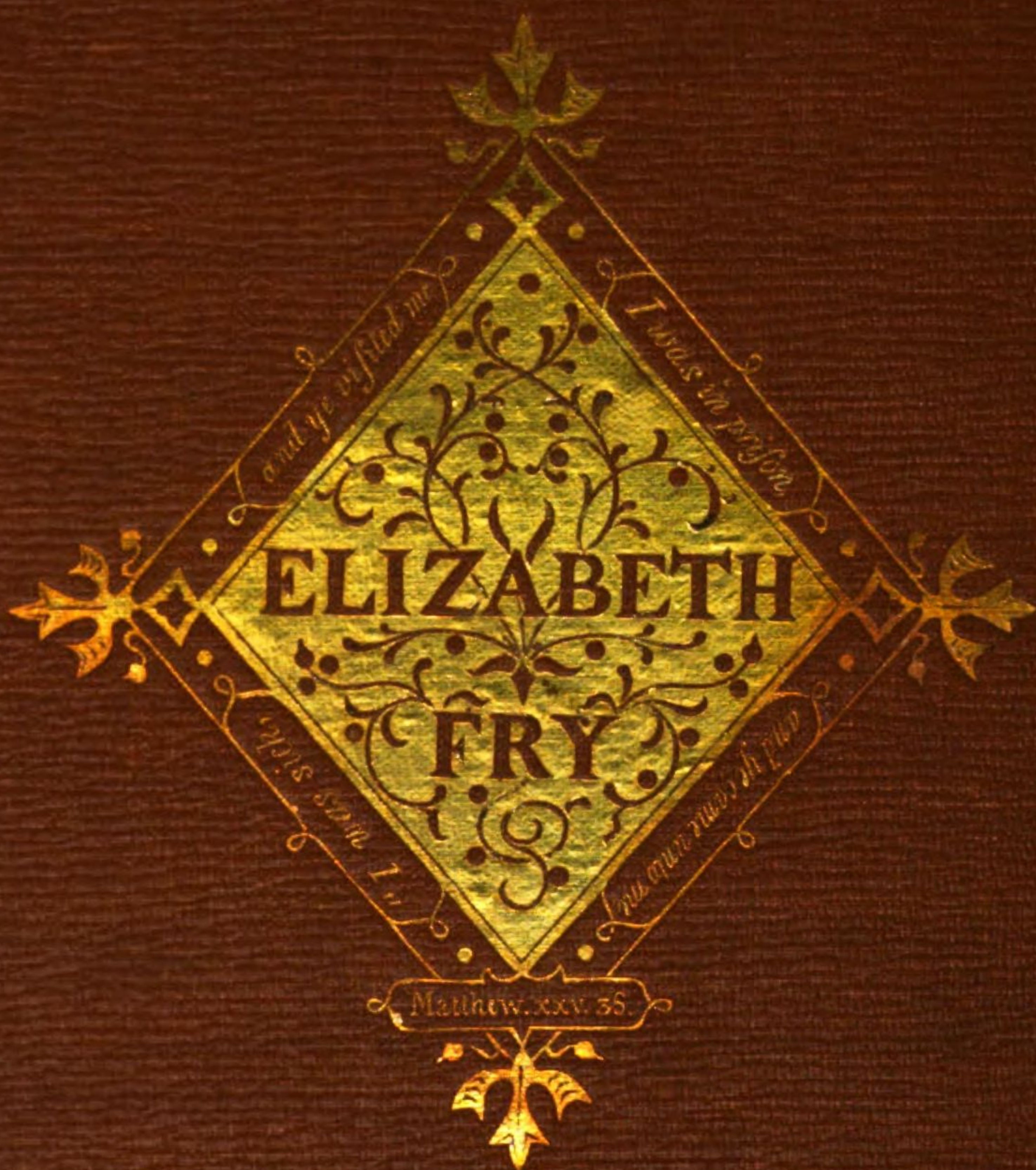




ELIZABETH

FRY

Matthew. xxv. 36.

Biogr. 4301²

Ch. Foy

by M. Cosmopolite

A MEMOIR
OF
ELIZABETH FRY:

BY HER DAUGHTER,
MRS. FRANCIS CRESSWELL.

ABRIDGED

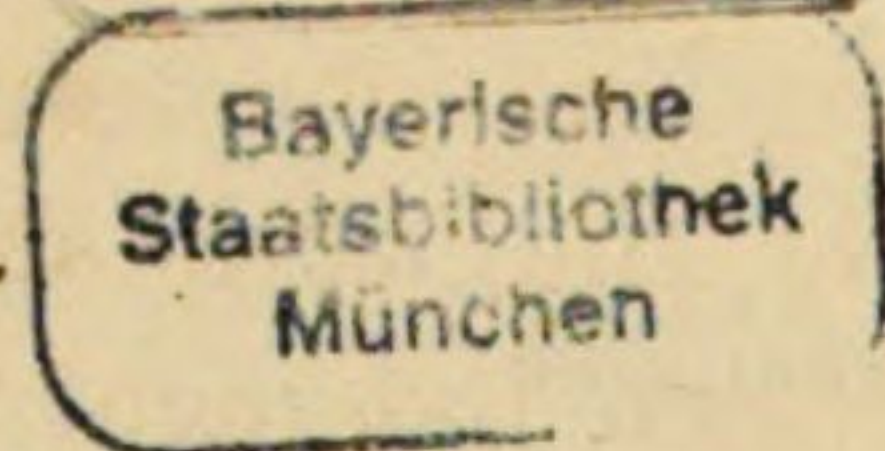
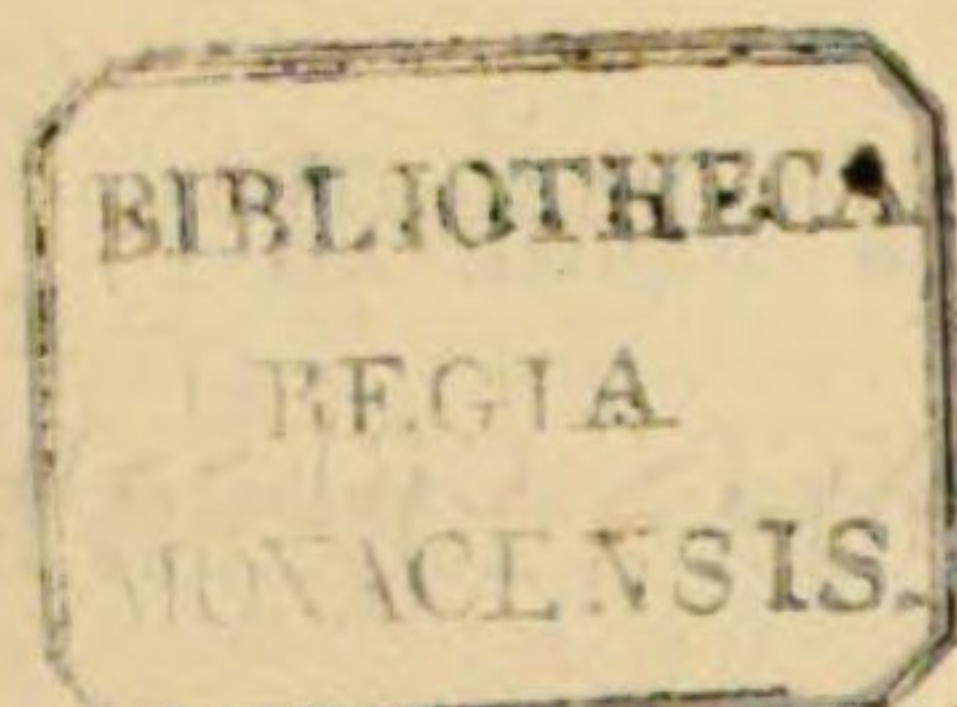
FROM THE LARGER MEMOIR, WITH ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

I was sick, and ye visited me : I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

MATTHEW xxv. 36.

London:
PIPER, STEPHENSON & SPENCE, PATERNOSTER ROW.
EDINBURGH: GRANT & SON.
DUBLIN: W. McGEE & CO.

MDCCCLVI.



PREFACE.

THE motives which induce me to present another edition of the life of my mother to the public are very simply told. The two editions, edited by my sister and myself, have been for some years exhausted. Inquiries for the work are frequently being made, whilst our own judgment tells us, that a record ought permanently to exist of public labours so blessed, and private life as lovely as hers, whose memoir we would again prepare. Nor is the Life of Elizabeth Fry valuable merely as a personal narrative. Her objects and endeavours are interwoven with many of the greatest interests of the day in which she lived. She illustrated a principle—the deep debt due from man to man—and proved, in her own person, how much human agency, in dependence on Divine assistance, can effect towards raising the fallen and consoling the afflicted. Her endeavours were carried on, as indefatigably as though success depended upon her exertions alone, whilst she sought for Heavenly guidance, and implored a blessing from on high,

with as much fervour as though her best powers were of no avail.

Smaller in size, and less expensive than the former editions, we trust that the history we tell may carry comfort and encouragement to many a lowly heart and humble dwelling.

Much is omitted that found a place in the former editions, especially lengthy extracts from her journal and letters ; interesting, as marking the minute development of her mind, but abounding in repetition, and little suited for the general reader. Many details, especially relating to her foreign journeys, not in the first edition, but which found a place in the second, are retained here ; and the whole is prepared, with the endeavour to allure and interest those who might be appalled by a more lengthy and strictly religious biography.

R. E. C.

BANK HOUSE, KING'S LYNN,
January 1856.

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THE
LIFE OF ELIZABETH FRY.

CHAPTER I.

BIRTH—PARENTAGE—DESCENT—HER MOTHER, HER CHARACTER—
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TIONS BY ELIZABETH FRY, OF HER OWN EARLY LIFE.

ELIZABETH FRY was born in Norwich, on the 21st of May, 1780. She was the third daughter of John Gurney, Esq., of Earlham, in the county of Norfolk, and Catherine, daughter of Daniel Bell, a merchant in London; whose wife Catherine, daughter of David Barclay, was a descendant of the ancient family of the Barclays of Ury, in Kincardineshire, and granddaughter of Robert Barclay, the well-known apologist of the Quakers.

The name Gurney, or Gournay,* is of great antiquity in the county of Norfolk, and is derived from the town of Gournay en Brai, in Normandy. The Norman lords of which place held fiefs in Norfolk, as

* See Burke's History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, vol. i. p. 484.

early as the reign of William Rufus. Two younger branches of this Norman race existed for some centuries. The one which was the most distinguished, was seated in Somersetshire; the other at Hingham Gurneys, and West Barsham, in Norfolk, where it continued till 1661; then it became extinct in the direct male line, and the estates devolved on co-heiresses.

John Gurney, or Gournay, of Norwich, merchant, descended from a younger son of the West Barsham branch, was the immediate ancestor of the present family of Gurney. He was born in 1655, and in early life embraced the tenets of the Society of Friends, on their first appearance, under George Fox their founder.

Joseph Gurney his son, purchased Keswick, which continues to be the residence of the head of the family. John Gurney, of Keswick, his son, died in 1770; leaving three sons, of whom John Gurney, of Earlham, the father of Elizabeth Fry, was the second. She was thus by many generations of both descents, an hereditary member of the Society of Friends.

John Gurney of Earlham, the father of the subject of this Memoir, was born in 1749, and was educated in the principles of the Society of Friends. As he advanced in life, his pursuits led to intercourse with persons of various denominations; this, with a naturally social disposition, induced unusual liberality of sentiment towards others. He was a man of ready talent, of bright discerning mind, singularly warm-hearted and affectionate, very benevolent, and in manner courteous and popular.

His marriage with Catherine Bell took place in 1775.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gurney established themselves in a roomy quadrangular house in St. Clement's parish, Norwich, which belonged to that branch of the family, where for some years they passed the winter months, spending the summer at Bramerton, a pretty village about four miles from Norwich, in an unpretending cheerful dwelling on the Common.

Mrs. Gurney was a person of excellent abilities, and of considerable attainments, as well as much personal beauty. She was disposed to scientific and intellectual pursuits, and singularly delighted in the charms and beauties of nature, imbuing her children, almost in infancy, with tastes that have remained with them through life. She preferred society that might be termed literary, to such as merely resulted from local circumstances.

At the period of which we speak, talent was frequently allied to scepticism, and the highest attainments in human learning were too often unaccompanied by soundness of religious faith. Many persons doubted, even more were indifferent to, the great truths of Christianity; and so general was this state of things, that individuals of personal piety, who moreover earnestly desired the prosperity of the kingdom of Christ, too little considered the opinions entertained by others, and associated freely with those whose religious belief was essentially at variance with their own. We cannot doubt, but that, to a certain extent, such was the case with Mr. and Mrs. Gurney; or that it had an injurious effect upon their family, especially after the death of

Mrs. Gurney, who laboured faithfully for the good of her children, reading the Bible with them, and urging upon them the necessity of prayer and personal piety. She watched minutely over the formation of character and habit, and planted in their young minds seeds, of which, they long afterwards reaped the excellent fruits.

In the year 1786, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney removed to Earlham Hall, a seat of the Bacon family, about two miles from Norwich. Mr. Gurney subsequently purchased an adjoining property, thus adding to the range and variety afforded to his large young party, by that pleasant home. Earlham has peculiar charms from its diversified scenery. The house is large, old, and irregular ; placed in the centre of a well-wooded park. The river Wensum, a clear winding stream, flows by it. Its banks, overhung by an avenue of ancient timber trees, formed a favourite resort of the young people ; there, in the summer evenings, they would often meet to walk, read, or sketch. On the south-front of the house extends a noble lawn, flanked by groves of trees growing from a carpet of wild flowers, moss, and long grass. Every nook, every green path at Earlham tells a tale of the past, and recalls to those, who remember the time when they were peopled by that joyous party, the many loved ones of the number, who, having shared with one another the pleasures of youth, the cares of maturer age, and above all, the hope of Immortality, are now together at rest !

Of the twelve children of Mr. and Mrs. Gurney, nine were born before their removal to Earlham ; one of

them died in infancy. The three youngest sons were born after their settlement there.

The mode of life at Bramerton was continued with little alteration at Earlham till November, 1792, when it pleased God to remove from this large family the kind mistress—the loving wife—the devoted mother. She died after an illness of three weeks, leaving eleven children, the eldest scarcely seventeen, the youngest not two years old.

This loss fell heavily on all, but, probably, to not one amongst them was it so grievous as to Elizabeth. Her disposition was peculiar—prone to resist compulsion, but amenable to the slightest touch of tenderness or reason. She was not studious by nature, and though gentle and quiet in temper, self-willed and determined. In a letter, written before she was three years old, her mother thus mentions her :—“ My dove-like Betsey scarcely ever offends, and is, in every sense of the word, truly engaging.” Her dislike to learning proved a serious disadvantage to her after she lost her mother, though, in natural talent, she was quick and penetrating, and had a depth of originality very uncommon.

Many years afterwards, during a period of comparative leisure, Elizabeth Fry occupied herself in perusing her early journals. She thought it well to destroy all that were written before the year 1797, and to substitute the following sketch of their contents, assisted by her own recollections :—

Dagenham, Eighth Month, 23rd, 1828.—My earliest recollections are, I should think, soon after I was two years old. Our father at that time had two houses, one in

Norwich, and one at Bramerton, a sweet country place, situated on a Common, near a pretty village ; here, I believe, many of my early tastes were formed, though we left it to reside at Earlham when I was about five years old. The impressions then received remain lively on my recollection ; the delight in the beauty and wild scenery in parts of the Common, the trees, the flowers, and the little rills that abounded on it, the farm-houses, the village school, and the different poor people and their cottages ; particularly a poor woman with one arm, whom we called one-armed Betty ; another neighbour, Greengrass, and her strawberry beds round a little pond ; our gardener, who lived near a large piece of water, and used to bring fish from it ; here, I think, my great love for the country, the beauties of nature, and attention to the poor, began. My mother was most dear to me, and the walks she took with me in the old-fashioned garden, are as fresh with me as if only just passed ; and her telling me about Adam and Eve being driven out of Paradise : I always considered it must be just like our garden at Bramerton. I remember that my spirits were not strong ; that I frequently cried if looked at, and used to say that my eyes were weak ; but I remember much pleasure and little suffering, or particular tendency to naughtiness, up to this period. Fear about this time began to show itself, of people and things : I remember being so much afraid of a gun, that I gave up an expedition of pleasure with my father and mother, because there was a gun in the carriage. I was also exceedingly afraid of the dark, and suffered so acutely from being left alone without a light after I

went to bed, that I believe my nervous system was injured in consequence of it ; also, I had so great a dread of bathing (to which I was at times obliged to submit), that the first sight of the sea, when we were as a family going to stay by it, would make me cry ; indeed, fear was so strong a principle in my mind, as greatly to mar the natural pleasure of childhood. I am now of opinion, that it would have been much more subdued, and great suffering spared, by its having been still more yielded to ; by having a light left in my room, not being long left alone ; and never forced to bathe ; for I do not at all doubt that it partly arose from that nervous susceptible constitution, that has at times, throughout my life, caused me such real and deep suffering. I know not what would have been the consequence, had I had any other than a most careful and wise mother and judicious nurses ; or had I been alarmed, as too many children are, by false threats of what might happen.

I had, as well as a fearful, rather a reserved mind, for I never remember telling of my many painful fears, though I must often have shown them by weeping when left in the dark, and on other occasions : this reserve made me little understood, and thought very little of, except by my mother and one or two others. I was considered and called very stupid and obstinate. I certainly did not like learning, nor did I, I believe, attend to my lessons, partly from a delicate state of health, that produced languor of mind as well as body ; but, I think, having the name of being stupid really tended to make me so, and discouraged my efforts to learn. I remember

having a poor, not to say low opinion of myself, and thinking that I was so very inferior to my sisters, Catherine and Rachel. I believe I had not a name only for being obstinate, for my nature had then a strong tendency that way ; and I was disposed to a spirit of contradiction, always ready to see things a little differently from others, and not willing to yield my sentiments to theirs.

My natural affections were very strong from my early childhood, at times almost overwhelmingly so ; such was the love for my mother, that the thought that she might die and leave me used to make me weep after I went to bed, and for the rest of the family, that notwithstanding my fearful nature, my childlike wish was, that two large walls might crush us all together, that we might die at once, and thus avoid the misery of each other's death. I seldom, if I could help it, left my mother's side ; I watched her when asleep in the day with exquisite anxiety, and used to go gently to her bed-side to listen, from the awful fear that she did not breathe ; in short, I may truly say, it amounted to deep reverence, that I felt for my father and mother. I never remember, as a little child, but once being punished by my mother ; and she then mistook tears of sorrow for tears of naughtiness, a thing that deeply impressed me, and I have never forgotten the pain it gave me. Although I do not imply that I had no faults, far from it, as some of the faults of my childhood are very lively in my recollection ; yet from my extreme love and fear, many of these faults were known almost only to myself. My imagination was lively, and I once remember, and only once, telling a

real untruth with one of my sisters and one of my brothers. We saw a bright light one morning, which we represented far above the reality, and upon the real thing being shown us that we had seen, we made it out not to be it.

My remembrance is of the pleasure of my childhood being almost spoiled through fear, and my religious impressions, such as I then had, were accompanied by gloom : on this account, I think the utmost care needed, in representing religious truth to children, that fearful views of it should be most carefully avoided, lest it should give a distaste for that which is most precious. First show them the love and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and the sweetness and blessedness of his service ; and such things in scripture, for instance, as Abraham's sacrifice, should be carefully explained to them. I think I suffered much in my youth from the most tender nervous system ; I certainly felt symptoms of ill health before my mother died, that I thought of speaking to her about, but never did, partly because I did not know how to explain them ; but they ended afterwards in very severe attacks of illness. I have always thought being forced to bathe was one cause of this, and I mention it, because I believe it a dangerous thing to do to children. What care is needful not to force children to learn too much, as it not only injures them, but gives a distaste for intellectual pursuits. Instruction should be adapted to their condition, and communicated in an easy and agreeable way.

How great is the importance of a wise mother, directing the tastes of her children in very early life, and

judiciously influencing their affections ! I remember with pleasure my mother's beds for wild flowers, which, with delight, I used, as a child, to attend to with her ; it gave me that pleasure in observing their beauties and varieties, that though I never have had time to become a botanist, few can imagine, in my many journeys, how I have been pleased and refreshed by observing and enjoying the wild flowers on my way. Again, she collected shells, and had a cabinet, and bought one for Rachel and myself, where we placed our curiosities ; and I may truly say, in the midst even of deep trouble, and often most weighty engagements of a religious and philanthropic nature, I have derived advantage, refreshment, and pleasure, from my taste for these things, making collections of them, and various natural curiosities, although as with flowers I have not studied them scientifically.

My mother also encouraged my most close friendship with my sister Rachel, and we had our pretty light closet, our books, our pictures, our curiosities, our tea things, all to ourselves ; and, as far as I can recollect, we unitedly partook of these pleasures, without any of the little jealousies, or the quarrels of childhood.

My mother, as far as she knew, really trained us up in the fear and love of the Lord ; my deep impression is, that she was a holy devoted follower of the Lord Jesus ; but that her understanding was not fully enlightened as to the fulness of the gospel truth. She taught us as far as she knew, and I now remember the solemn religious feelings I had whilst sitting in silence with her after reading the scriptures, or a Psalm before we went to bed.

I have no doubt that her prayers were not in vain in the Lord.

She died when I was twelve years old; the remembrance of her illness and death is sad, even to the present day.

CHAPTER II.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF ELIZABETH GURNEY AND HER SISTERS—HER CHARACTER AND HABITS—NATURAL QUALITIES AS A YOUNG PERSON—ABSENCE OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE—ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES REQUISITE TO HAPPINESS—WILLIAM SAVERY COMES TO NORWICH ON A RELIGIOUS VISIT—EFFECTS OF HIS PREACHING—ACCOUNT BY ONE OF HER SISTERS—HER OWN JOURNAL—GOES TO LONDON TO SEE THE WORLD—LETTER FROM WILLIAM SAVERY.

THE death of Mrs. Gurney had left her seven daughters, unprotected by a mother's care, to pursue the difficult path of early womanhood. They appear to have been rich in attraction and talent, lively and original, possessing a peculiar freshness of character, with singular purity of purpose, and warmth of affection. But their faith was obscure, and their principles necessarily unfixed and wavering. They appreciated the beauty and excellence of religion; but it was natural, rather than revealed religion with which they were acquainted.

The family of Mr. Gurney, thus left to their own resources, unaccustomed to the study of the scriptures, and with no other sources of information from which to learn, for a time were permitted to "stumble upon the dark mountains, seeking rest and finding none."

These remarks apply especially to the three elder

daughters, as they gradually advanced into life. The four younger ones, sheltered in the school-room, were comparatively spared the difficulties through which their sisters were pioneering the way. Mr. Gurney's occupations, both public and private, and his naturally trustful disposition, prevented his seeing all the dangers to which they were exposed. They formed many acquaintances, and some friendships, with persons greatly gifted by nature, but fearfully tainted by the prevailing errors of the day. Great pain and bitter disappointment resulted from these connexions ; but demanding only an allusion here, as they indirectly affected Elizabeth through the sufferings of others, and the experience gained to herself.

To the gaieties of the world, in the usual acceptation of the term, they were but little exposed. Music and dancing are not allowed by Friends ; though a scruple, as to the former, is by no means universal. Mr. Gurney had no objection to music : they had all a taste for it, though almost uncultivated ; some of them sang delightfully. The sweet and thrilling pathos of their native warblings are still remembered with pleasure by those who heard them, especially the duets of Rachel and Elizabeth. They danced occasionally in the large anti-room leading to the drawing-room, but with little of the spirit of display so often manifested on these occasions. It was more an effusion of young joyous hearts, who thus sought and found an outlet for their mirth. When her health permitted it, no one of the party entered with more zest into these amusements than Elizabeth. Her figure tall, and at that time slight and graceful, was peculiarly fitted for dancing. She was also an excellent

horsewoman, and rode fearlessly and well ; but she suffered much from delicacy of constitution, and was liable to severe nervous attacks, which often impeded her joining her sisters in their different objects and pursuits. In countenance, she is described as having been as a young person very sweet and pleasing, with a profusion of soft flaxen hair, though, perhaps, not so glowing and handsome as some of her sisters.

She had much native grace, and to many people was very attractive. In contemplating her peculiar gifts, it is wonderful to observe the adaptation of her natural qualities to her future career ; and how, through the transforming power of divine grace, each one proved subservient to the highest purposes. Her natural timidity changed to the opposite virtue of courage, but with such holy moderation and nice discretion, as never failed to direct it aright. The touch of obstinacy she displayed as a child, became that finely tempered decision and firmness, which enabled her to execute her projects for the good of her fellow-creatures. That which was in childhood something not unlike cunning, ripened into the most uncommon penetration, long-sightedness, and skill in influencing the minds of those around her. Her disinclination to the common methods of learning, appeared to be connected with much original thought, and a mind acting on its own resources ; for she certainly always possessed more genius and ready quick comprehension, than application or argument.

Such were the circumstances, and such the characteristics of Elizabeth Gurney and her sisters, after the death of their mother ; and years passed on, with few changes,

but such as necessarily came with the lapse of time, and their advance in age. But He who had purposes of mercy towards them, in His own way, and in His own good time was preparing for them emancipation from their doubts, and light for darkness. Wonderful is it to mark how, by little and little, through various instruments, through mental conflicts, through bitter experience, He gradually led them, each one, into the meridian light of day—the glorious liberty of the children of God.

At a time when religion in a more gloomy form might not have gained a hearing ; when the graver countenance of rebuke would probably have been unheeded, a gentleman became acquainted with the Earlham family, of high principle, and cultivated mind. With him the sisters formed a strong and lasting friendship. He addressed himself to their understandings, on the grand doctrines of Christianity ; he referred them to the written word as the rule of life ; he lent them, and read with them, books of a religious tendency. He treated religion, as such, with reverence ; and although himself a Roman Catholic, he abstained from every controversial topic, nor ever used his influence, directly or indirectly, in favour of his own church. There was another individual who proved an important instrument, in leading the sisters to sound views of religion, though, when first acquainted with them, herself wandering in the wilderness of doubt, if not of error. This was Marianne Galton, afterwards Mrs. Schimmelpenninck.* Being a highly educated per-

* Authoress of a Tour to Alet and the Grande Chartreuse, and Select Memoirs of Port Royal.

son, of great mental power, and accustomed to exercise her abilities in the use of her reason and an honest search after truth, she acquired considerable influence over them. As the truth of revelation opened upon her own understanding, and her heart became influenced by it, they shared in her advance, and profited by her experience. There were other individuals with whom they associated, whose influence was desirable, but less powerful, than that of either Miss Galton or Mr. Pitchford.

They appear also to have derived advantage, at times, from the religious visits of Friends to Earlham. The family of Mr. Gurney were in the habit of attending no place of worship, but the Friends' meeting. The attendance of Elizabeth was continually impeded by want of health, and it is difficult to know when the habit of absenting herself might have been broken through, but for her uncle, Joseph Gurney ; who urged the duty upon her, and encouraged her to make the attempt. He was a decided Friend, and had much influence with her, both then, and during her future life. She was ready, indeed, to essay anything, that might tend to satisfy her conscience, or meet the cravings of her heart for a something, which as yet she had not obtained. There is occasionally to be met with in the character of fallen man, a longing after perfection—after that which can alone satisfy the immortal spirit ; this she experienced in no common measure. Her Journal is replete with desires after "virtue," and "truth." She seeks and finds God in His works, but as yet she had not found Him, as He stands revealed in the page of inspiration.

January, 1797.—My mind is in so dark a state, that I see everything through a black medium.

April.—Why do I so much wish for the Prince* to come? Pride, alas! is the cause. Do such feelings hurt my mind? they may not in this instance, but if given way to, they are difficult to overcome. How am I to overcome them?

29th.—I met the Prince; it showed me the folly of the world; my mind feels very flat after the storm of pleasure.

May 16th.—There is a sort of luxury in giving way to the feelings! I love to feel for the sorrows of others, to pour wine and oil into the wounds of the afflicted; there is a luxury in feeling the heart glow, whether it be with joy or sorrow. I think the different periods of life may well be compared to the seasons. First, we are in the spring, only buds are to be seen; next our characters are blown, and it is summer; autumn follows, and there are then many remains of summer, and beautiful ones too; there springs also the best fruit from the summer flower. Winter must come, it will follow in its course; there is not much more pleasure then, than collecting a few solitary berries, and playing with the snow and ice.

I like to think of everything, to 'look at mankind; I love to "look through Nature up to Nature's God." I have no more religion than that, and in the little I have I am not the least devotional, but when I admire the beauties of nature, I cannot help thinking of the

* H. R. H. William Frederick, afterwards Duke of Gloucester, then quartered with his Regiment at Norwich.

source from whence such beauties flow. I feel it a support. I believe firmly that all is guided for the best by an invisible power, therefore I do not fear the evils of life so much. I love to feel good—I do what I can to be kind to everybody. I have many faults which I hope in time to overcome.

18th.—Most likely about a hundred years from this time, neither one person, nor anything that has life, will be alive. What is still more wonderful is, that all should be so continually changing, almost without our observation.

July 11th.—I am in a most idle mind, and inclined to have an indolent dissipated day ; but I will try to overcome it, and see how far I can. I am well, oh, most inestimable of comforts ! Happy, happy I, to be so well ; how good, how virtuous, ought I to be ! May what I have suffered be a lesson to me, to feel for those who are ill, and alleviate their sorrows as far as lies in my power ; let it teach me never to forget the blessings I enjoy. I ought never to be unhappy ;—look back at this time last year, how ill I was, how miserable ;—yet I was supported through it ; God will support through the suffering He inflicts ; if I were devotional, I should fall on my knees and be most grateful for the blessings I enjoy ; a good father, one whom I dearly love, sisters formed after my own heart, friends whom I admire, and good health, which gives a relish to all. Company to dinner ; I must beware of being a flirt, it is an abominable character ; I hope I shall never be one, and yet I fear I am one now a little. Be careful not to talk at random. Beware and see how well I can get through

this day, without one foolish action. If I do pass this day without one foolish action, it is the first I ever passed so. If I pass a day with only a few foolish actions, I may think it a good one.

18th.—I am a bubble, without reason, without beauty of mind or person ; I am a fool. I daily fall lower in my own estimation. What an infinite advantage it would be to me to occupy my time and thoughts well. I am now seventeen, and if some kind and great circumstance does not happen to me, I shall have my talents devoured by moth and rust. They will lose their brightness, lose their virtue, and one day they will prove a curse instead of a blessing. Dreaded day !

“Dreaded day !” Thus seeking rest and finding none, her spirit craving that which can alone satisfy the immortal soul, but her understanding not enlightened to receive the great truths of Christianity ; well might she shrink from the contemplation of the time when the things of time and sense would have passed away for ever.

It was on the 4th of February, 1798, that William Savery, an American Friend, who had come to England on a religious visit (as it is termed in the language of Friends) in the course of his travels, arrived at Norwich. He appears to have been sound in the Christian faith, and to have laid due stress on the great doctrine of the atonement. He was a strict Friend ; earnest in urging a faithful obedience to the immediate guidings of the Spirit of God, yet careful, lest from any want of watchfulness and humility the youthful mind should be led into error.

Elizabeth's sister, Richenda,* thus describes this eventful day :—

On that day, we seven sisters sat as usual in a row, under the gallery, at Meeting ; I sat by Betsey. William Savery was there : we liked having Yearly Meeting Friends come to preach—it was a little change. Betsey was generally rather restless at Meeting, and on this day, I remember her very smart boots were a great amusement to me ; they were purple, laced with scarlet.

At last William Savery began to preach. His voice and manner were arresting, and we all liked the sound ; her attention became fixed, at last I saw her begin to weep, and she became a good deal agitated. As soon as Meeting was over, I have a remembrance of her making her way to the men's side of the Meeting, and having found my father, she begged him if she might dine with William Savery at the Grove,† to which he soon consented, though rather surprised by the request ; we went home as usual, and, for a wonder, we wished to go again in the afternoon. I have not the same clear remembrance of this Meeting ; but the next scene that has fastened itself on my memory, is our return home in the carriage. Betsey sat in the middle, and astonished us all by the great feeling she showed. She wept most of the way home.

The next morning, William Savery came to breakfast, and preached to our dear sister after breakfast, prophesying of the high and important calling she would be led into. What she went through in her own mind, I

* Afterwards Mrs. Francis Cunningham.

† The Residence of her uncle, Joseph Gurney.

cannot say, but the results were most powerful, and most evident. From that day her love of pleasure and of the world seemed gone.

How deep the impression, made upon the mind of Elizabeth, her own journal portrays:—

Sunday, February 4th, 1798.—This morning I went to Meeting, though but poorly, because I wished to hear an American Friend, named William Savery. Much passed there of a very interesting nature. I have had a faint light spread over my mind, at least I believe it is something of that kind, owing to having been much with, and heard much excellence from one who appears to me to be a true christian. It has caused me to feel a little religion. My imagination has been worked upon, and I fear all that I have felt will go off. I fear it now; though at first I was frightened, that a plain Quaker should have made so deep an impression upon me; but how truly prejudiced in me to think, that because good came from a Quaker, I should be led away by enthusiasm and folly. But I hope I am now free from such fears. I wish the state of enthusiasm I am now in may last, for to-day I have felt *that there is a God*; I have been devotional, and my mind has been led away from the follies that it is mostly wrapt up in. We had much serious conversation; in short, what he said and what I felt, was like a refreshing shower, falling upon earth, that had been dried up for ages. It has not made me unhappy; I have felt ever since humble. I have longed for virtue. I hope to be truly virtuous; to let sophistry fly from my mind, not to be enthusiastic and foolish, but only to be so far religious as will lead

to virtue. There seems nothing so little understood as religion.

Sunday, 11th.—It is very different to this day week (a day never to be forgotten whilst memory lasts). I have been to Meeting this morning. To-day I have felt all my old irreligious feelings—my object shall be to search, try to do right, and if I am mistaken, it is not my fault; but the state I am now in makes it difficult to act. What little religion I have felt has been owing to my giving way quietly and humbly to my feelings; but the more I reason upon it, the more I get into a labyrinth of uncertainty, and my mind is so much inclined to both scepticism and enthusiasm, that if I argue and doubt, I shall be a total sceptic; if, on the contrary, I give way to it, and as it were, wait for religion, I may be led away. But I hope that will not be the case; at all events, religion, true and uncorrupted, is of all comforts the greatest; it is the first stimulus to virtue; it is a support under every affliction. I am sure it is better to be so in an enthusiastic degree, than not to be so at all, for it is a delightful enthusiasm.

In this peculiar and awakened state of mind, Elizabeth, with the consent of Mr. Gurney, visited London, that she might become acquainted for herself with those amusements and fascinations that the world offers to its votaries; that she might have the opportunity of “trying all things,” and choosing for herself that which appeared to her “to be good.”

But it must be remembered, that this choice lay not between Religion in her various aspects, but between

the gay and giddy world on the one hand, and religion in the garb of Quakerism on the other ; the only form in which it had, as yet, been presented to her. Of real Christians of any other persuasion, she knew scarcely anything. Very different might have been the history of her life, had she listened to the solemn exhortations of Walker of Truro, the earnestness of Wesley, or the impetuosity of Whitfield.

Thirty years afterwards, she thus reviews this eventful period of her life :—

Dagenham, Seventh Month, 1828.—Here ended this important and interesting visit to London, where I learned much, and had much to digest. I saw and entered various scenes of gaiety ; many of our first public places ; attended balls and other places of amusement. I saw many interesting characters in the world, some of considerable eminence in that day ; I was also cast among a great variety of persons of different descriptions. I had the high advantage of attending several most interesting meetings of William Savery, and having, at times, his company, and that of a few other Friends. It was like the casting die in my life ; however, I believe it was in the ordering of Providence for me, and that the lessons then learnt are to this day valuable to me. I consider one of the important results was, the conviction of these things being wrong, from seeing them and feeling their effects. I wholly gave up, on my own ground, attending all public places of amusement ; I saw they tended to promote evil, therefore, even if I could attend them without being hurt myself, I felt in entering them, I lent my aid to promote that,

which I was sure from what I saw, hurt others ; led many from the paths of rectitude and chastity, and brought them into much sin ; particularly those who had to act in plays and sing in concerts. I felt the vanity and folly of what are called the pleasures of this life, of which, the tendency is not to satisfy, but, eventually, to enervate and injure the heart and mind ; those are only real pleasures which are of an innocent nature, and are used as recreations, subjected to the cross of Christ. I was in my judgment much confirmed in the infinite importance of religion, as the only real stay, guide, help, and comfort in this life, and the only means of our having a hope of partaking in a better. My understanding was increasingly opened to receive its truths ; although the glad tidings of the gospel of Christ were little, very little, if at all understood by me : I was like the blind man, although I could hardly be said to have attained the state of seeing men as trees. I obtained in this expedition a valuable knowledge of human character, from the variety I met with ; this, I think, was useful to me, though some were very dangerous associates for so young a person ; and the way in which I was protected among them, is in my remembrance very striking, and leads me to acknowledge, that at this most critical period of my life, the tender mercy of my God was marvellously displayed towards me, and that His all-powerful, though to me then, almost unseen and unknown hand, held me up and protected me. Can any one doubt, that it was His Spirit which manifested to me the evil in my own heart ; as well as that which I perceived around me, leading me to abhor it, and to

hunger and thirst after Himself and His righteousness, and that salvation which cometh by Christ.

Scarcely had Elizabeth Gurney returned to Earlham, when she received from William Savery a letter abounding in Christian kindness and wise advice.

William Savery to Elizabeth Gurney.

“ 13th of Fourth Month, 1798.

“ DEAR FRIEND,

“ As I left thee unwell, and without having it in my power to take thee affectionately by the hand, as I was much inclined to do, it gave me great pleasure to receive thy kind letter, which brings no complaint of thy present want of health ; for, I assure thee, I feel interested in thy welfare and happiness every way. My attachment has not been more cordial or agreeable to any young Friend in England, and my heart leaped with joy to find thou art willing to acknowledge a state of hunger and thirst after righteousness, which, if thou cherish and dwell in, thou never need to doubt, my dear friend, will eventually be crowned with the enjoyment of the heavenly promise, “ thou shalt be filled.” Thou art favoured with amiable and benevolent dispositions, which, I hope thou hast wisely determined, shall not be eclipsed by a conformity to the god of this world, nor enslaved by its rudiments and maxims, its philosophy and vain deceit, but rather with a holy magnanimity, regardless of the world’s dread laugh, thou wilt resolve to implore the Omnipotent hand that formed thee for Glory, Immortality, and Eternal Life, to finish the

glorious work He has begun, by creating thee anew in Christ Jesus unto every good word and work ; bringing thee under the dominion of His own power and spirit, the fruit of which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

“ I know, my dear, thou hast, and will have, many temptations to combat with ; thou wilt, doubtless, be frequently importuned to continue with thy gay acquaintance, in pursuit of that unsubstantial and false glare of happiness, which the world, in too bewitching and deceitful colours, holds out to the poor young, unwary traveller, which if he be ensnared with, most certainly ends in blinding the intellectual eye from discerning the uncontaminated source of soul-felt pleasure, resulting from a humble heart at peace with its God, its neighbour, and itself. Thou asks my advice, my dear friend, and without any premeditation when I sat down, I find I have been attempting it ; but it is very evident, thou art under the especial care of an infinitely better Instructor, who has already uttered His soft and heavenly voice, to teach thee that the first step towards religion is true humility ; because in that state only we can feel the need we have of an arm stronger than human to lean upon, to lead us out of, and keep us from polluting things, which hinder our access to, and confidence in that boundless source of purity, love, and mercy ; who, amidst all the vicissitudes of time, is disposed to be our invincible Shepherd, Guardian, and Friend, in whom we may trust, and never be afraid ; but this blessed confidence is not—cannot be enjoyed by the gay, the giddy, proud, or abandoned votaries of this world.

“ It is the peculiar privilege of those, who are sincerely endeavouring to wash their hands in innocency, that they may compass the altar of God availingly. I have experienced what it is to be under the imperious and slavish dominion of my own uncontrolled passions ; and I know that such a state is abundantly mixed with the wormwood and the gall, and I have been, through adorable mercy, convinced there is an infinitely more happy one to be attained, even in this life ; an enjoyment, under the perfect law of liberty, of that serene state of mind, wherein there is no condemnation, as Paul speaks, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus setting the soul free from the law of sin and death. I do not pretend, my dear friend, to boast myself as having attained such an uninterrupted state, yet the transient foretaste which we partake of, in proportion to our obedience to revealed duty, is enough to inspire the soul of every Christian soldier, so to run through God’s mercy and grace, that we may obtain the full and complete enjoyment of it. There are many formal professors of religion, who think to obtain peace with God, by a critical exactness, and even rigid austerity, in outward observances, and outside formalities, as well as many who, from constitution or habit, are always exhibiting the dark and gloomy side of religion, not having, in my humble opinion, their minds sufficiently expanded by just conceptions of the adorable love and mercy of God ; and both of these spread a discouraging report of the good land, or of the way which our Heavenly Father has appointed for us to obtain possession of it. I speak only my own experience, dear Elizabeth, when I say,

that whenever I have found my way more than usually strewn with thorns, I have generally discovered, on a deep scrutiny of my heart, it has been the fruit of some open or secret departure from the paths of obedience and virtue, so that I am confirmed it is in our own ways we are corrected ; but the ways of the Lord are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths peace. I know very well that the most virtuous, being children of frail humanity, and this world not designed to be the place of their undisturbed rest, but a school of discipline to prepare them for a better, are subject to afflictions as well as others ; still there is this difference in the midst of them all, that while the votary of this world is overwhelmed with murmuring and repining, and agitated with sorrow which worketh death, under the afflictive dispensations, that all, more or less, in the wisdom of Providence for our good must pass through in this life, the humble Christian, believing that even afflictions from His sovereign hand are mercies in disguise, and that all things shall work eventually for good to them that love and fear Him, are strengthened, through the Lord's love and mercy to say—' The cup that my Heavenly Father hath blessed, shall I not drink it ? ' ' for our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.' On the other hand, the temporal enjoyments of this life being sanctified to us by the hand that gave them, and the world used without abusing it, the peace, comfort, and

rational enjoyment of them is doubly tasted by the religious and grateful soul. My dear child, my heart is full towards thee—I have written a great deal more than I expected ; but I fain would take thee by the hand, if I were qualified so to do, and ascend, as our Heavenly Father may enable us together, step by step, up that ladder, which reaches from earth to Heaven ; but, alas ! my weakness is such, I can only recommend both myself and thee to that good hand, that is able to do more abundantly for us than we can either ask or think ; and bid thee, for the present, in much Christian affection, farewell.

“ WILLIAM SAVERY.”

CHAPTER III.

RETURN TO EARLHAM—GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF OPINION—JOURNEY INTO WALES AND THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND—INTERCOURSE WITH FRIENDS—COLEBROOK DALE—ATTENTION TO THE POOR—KINDNESS TO OTHERS—APPEARANCE—JOURNEY TO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND—VISIT TO THE FRIENDS' SCHOOL AT ACKWORTH—BECOMES A PLAIN FRIEND—PROPOSALS OF MARRIAGE FROM MR. FRY 1800—MARRIAGE—FIRST VISIT TO PLASHET—SETTLEMENT IN LONDON—LETTER TO A FRIEND—YEARLY MEETING.

ON her return to Earlham, and recommencing her home life, Elizabeth Gurney endeavoured so to order her occupations, as, with her new views of the duties of life, would satisfy her conscience and advance her own eternal interests.

She mentions a dream, which about this time continually recurred, and made a deep impression on her mind. She dreamed that she was nearly washed away by the sea, and felt all the terror of expecting to be drowned: she mentioned it at last to her family. The dream continued after her religious impressions began; but the night following the day, during which, to use her own expression, she felt that she had obtained "true and real faith," the vision of the night altered its character—the sea came up as usual, but she was beyond its reach—she was safe.

May 8th.—This morning, being alone, I think it a good opportunity to look into myself, to see my present state, and to regulate myself. At this time the first object of my mind is religion. It is the most constant subject of my thoughts and of my feelings; I am not yet on what I call a steady foundation. The next feeling that at this present fills my heart, is benevolence and affection to many, but great want of charity, want of humility, want of activity; my inclinations lead me, I hope, to virtue; my passions are, I hope, in a pretty good state; I want to set myself in good order, for much time is lost and many evils committed by not having some regular plan of conduct: I make these rules for myself:—

First.—Never lose any time; I do not think that lost which is spent in amusement or recreation, some time every day; but always be in the habit of being employed.

Second.—Never err the least in truth.

Third.—Never say an ill thing of a person, when I can say a good thing of them; not only speak charitably, but feel so.

Fourth.—Never be irritable nor unkind to anybody.

Fifth.—Never indulge myself in luxuries that are not necessary.

Sixth.—Do all things with consideration, and when my path to act right is most difficult, feel confidence in that Power that alone is able to assist me, and exert my own powers as far as they go.

19th.—Altogether I think I have had a satisfactory day. I had a good lesson of French this morning, and

read much in Epictetus. Saw poor Bob, and enjoyed the sweet beauties of nature, which now shine forth ; each day some new beauty arrives. I love the beauty of the country, it does the mind good. I love it more than I used to do. I love retirement and quiet much more since my journey to London. How little I thought six months ago, I should be so much altered ; I am since then, I hope, altered much for the better. My heart may rise in thankfulness to that Omnipotent Power, that has allowed my eyes to be opened in some measure to see the light of truth, and to feel the comfort of religion. I hope to be capable of giving up my all, if it be required of me, to serve the Almighty with my whole heart.

June 1st.—I have been great part of this morning with poor Bob, who seems now dying. I read a long chapter in the Testament to him, the one upon death, and I sat with him for some time afterwards. Poor fellow ! I never saw death, or any of its symptoms before ; sad to see, it truly is ; I said a few words to him, and expressed to him how happy we should be in expectation of immortality, and everlasting bliss. Father of mercies, wilt Thou bless him, and take him unto Thee ! Though my mind is flat this morning, and not favoured with Thy Spirit in devotion, yet I exert what I have, and hope it will prove acceptable in Thy sight. Almighty God, Thy will be done, and not ours. May I always be resigned to what Thou hast ordered for me ; I humbly thank Thee, for allowing my eyes to be opened, so as even to feel faith, hope and love towards Thee. First and last of everything, infinite, and not to be comprehended

except by Thy Spirit which Thou allowest to enlighten our hearts.

Thus do we find her raising her heart in prayer. Much of obscurity was there in her views, and her faith was confused and dim, but the desire of her soul was to do the will of her Heavenly Father, and to accept his service ; and as this desire grew, so increased her anxiety for the good of her fellow creatures, that they also should partake of the same rich blessing as herself.

13th.—I have some thoughts of by degrees increasing my plan for Sunday evening ; and of having several poor children at least, to read in the Testament and religious books for an hour. I have begun with Billy ; but I hope to continue and increase one by one. I should think it a good plan ; but I must not even begin that hastily. It might increase morality among the lower classes, if the Scriptures were oftener and better read to them. I believe I cannot exert myself too much ; there is nothing gives me such satisfaction as instructing the lower classes of people.

24th.—I persevered in going to Meeting this afternoon. Coming home, I saw a scene that indeed interested me, my father jumping into the water at the New Mills, after a poor boy whom I thought drowned ; my feelings were great indeed, both for my father and the boy. I believe I should have leapt in afterwards, if my father had gone out of sight ; he did it delightfully, with such activity and spirit, it was charming to see him. Poor little boy ! I took him as soon as he was out of the water ; it agitated me extremely.

During the summer, Mr. Gurney, with his seven

daughters, took a journey into Wales and the south of England. Elizabeth delighted in nature, and dwelt with pleasure on the beautiful scenery they passed through ; but to the works of man, however imposing, she was comparatively indifferent. She visited cathedral cities ; she saw scenes of high historic interest ; castles, whose walls could reveal dark tales of by-gone days ; but she scarcely mentions them, and if she notices them at all, it is but to draw some moral inference. In visiting the Dock-yards, at Plymouth, and beholding one of the noblest instances of man's power and skill, a first-rate man-of-war in perfect order, and equipped for sea, she considers the effects of war and its influences on the human race.

She is attracted by the Marine Bands at Plymouth, but resists the attraction, and remains at home. At Weymouth she queries as to joining the party to a dance at the " Rooms," but leaves the decision to her father. A little further, we find her reading to her sisters the 15th Chapter of the 1st of Corinthians, and expressing her hopes—" Oh ! how earnestly, that we may all know what truth is, and follow its dictates !"

But by far the greatest interest afforded her by this journey, was the prospect of seeing different members of the Society of Friends, and becoming better acquainted with them and their principles. The travellers paid a visit to Colebrook Dale, the residence of the well-known Christian philanthropist, Richard Reynolds ; there she was left for some days, with her cousin, Priscilla Hannah Gurney.

This lady was just the person to attract the young

and enthusiastic. Beautiful in person, and elegant in manner ; tinged with the forms and dignities of the old school, her costume partook of its character ; the black hood, which she wore to the last, was especially becoming to her oval face and clear complexion. She early renounced the world and its fascinations, left Bath, where her mother and sister Christiana Gurney resided, became eventually a minister among friends, and found a congenial retreat for many years at Colebrook Dale.

There were other Friends at Colebrook Dale. Elizabeth Gurney was addressed in language of both warning and encouragement. The prospect of singular usefulness was held out to her, in language almost prophetic ; and under the influence exerted there she made still further advance towards Quakerism.

Mr. Gurney returned home in September. Elizabeth resumed her usual habits of self-occupation and usefulness to others ; visiting and relieving the poor, both at Earlham and in Norwich, especially the sick ; reading the Bible to them and instructing their children. Her school too, gradually increased from the small beginning of one little boy, to so great a number, that her teaching them in the house became inconvenient, and a vacant laundry was given up to this purpose. She had at last above seventy scholars, without assistance, without monitors, without even the countless books and pictures of the present day. How she controlled the wills and fixed the attention of so many unruly children, must ever remain a mystery to those, who have not the gift she possessed of influencing the minds of others.

Nor was her attention confined to the poor; where any little kindness seemed needed, there she delighted to offer it. A circumstance marking this trait in her character, was related a few years ago to one of her family, by a lady, the widow of an officer, who was living alone in a small house near Norwich, about 1798, during her husband's absence.—Her income was limited; she was young, and had few acquaintances. It was during her confinement with her first child that she was surprised by a loud ring at the bell.

Her servant came running up stairs with a basket in her hand, and in the broad dialect peculiar to Norfolk, informed her mistress that it had been left by "a beautiful lady on horseback, in a scarlet riding habit." The basket contained a chicken and some little delicacies; and the same attentions were repeated, although personally a stranger to Elizabeth and her family.

We have no exact knowledge of the time when the scarlet riding habit was abandoned; nor is it easy to ascertain by what gradations she became a Friend in outward appearance. She was slow in adopting the costume; she first laid aside all ornament, then she chose quiet and inconspicuous colours, and had her dresses made with perfect simplicity. As late as the spring of 1799, an eye-witness describes her in a plain slate-coloured silk dress; but a black lace veil twisted in the turban fashion of the day with her long blonde hair, the ends hanging on one side.

Singing and dancing were gradually abandoned, first in company, afterwards in the family party; but not without many struggles from her own feelings, and even

more from the pain her refusing to join them occasioned her brothers and sisters.

The following summer Elizabeth and her younger sister Priscilla, accompanied their father into the north of England. Mr. Gurney had a property on the beautiful banks of the Wanspeck, which he wished to visit. Often, in after life, would Elizabeth's stories of their rambles delight her happy children, as they gathered round to listen to her girlish adventures amongst that lovely scenery.

They attended the General Meeting at the Friends' Public School at Ackworth, which interested Elizabeth, from bringing her into communication with several Friends. The Institution at Ackworth is for the maintenance and education of three hundred Friends' children ; it is partly supported by contributions—partly by a moderate payment on the part of the parents. Once in the year a Committee of Friends, appointed by the Yearly Meeting, meet at Ackworth, with any others of the Society who incline to join them. A minute investigation then takes place of the religious state of the children, their advance in learning, their health, and domestic comfort.

By the end of the year, Elizabeth Gurney had, with the close cap and handkerchief of Friends, assumed their other peculiarities ; of their principles she had long been convinced, choosing Quakerism as the religion of her life. Thus established on the most important of all questions, she was the better prepared to consider the proposal of marriage made to her at this time by Mr. Joseph Fry, then engaged with his elder brother, Mr. William Fry, in business in London. This remarkable extract from

her journal, shows how anxious was her desire to be guided aright in this momentous question.

Twelfth Month, 12th.—I believe the true state of my mind is as follows:—I have almost ever since I have been a little under the influence of religion, thought marriage at this time was not a good thing for me, as it might lead my interests and affections from that Source in which they should be centred, and also, if I have any active duties to perform in the church, if I really follow, as far as I am able, the voice of Truth in my heart, are they not rather incompatible with the duties of a wife and a mother? And is it not safest to wait and see what is the probable course I shall take in this life, before I enter into any engagement that affects my future career? So I think, and so I have thought. But to look on the other side. If truth appears to tell me I may marry, I should leave the rest, and hope whatsoever my duties are, I shall be able to perform them; but it is now at this time the prayer of my heart, that if I ever should be a mother, I may rest with my children, and really find my duties lead me to them and my husband; and if my duty ever leads me from my family, that it may be in single life. I must leave all to the wisdom of a superior Power, and in humble confidence pray for assistance now, and for evermore, in performing His will.

There was so much in this connection to value and approve, the path of life it appeared to open, was so suited to her wish for a closer connection with Friends, Mr. Fry's position promised both the opportunity and power of so much usefulness, that after a time Elizabeth Gurney arrived at the conclusion to accept his proposals.

The marriage of Joseph Fry and Elizabeth Gurney took place on the 19th of August 1800, at the Friends' Meeting House in Norwich. Although on her wedding morning she "awoke in a sort of terror at the prospect before her," and on driving through Norwich for the last time, "the very stones of the streets seemed dear to her;" yet within a few days she writes cheerfully of her arrival at Plashet, and the cordiality of her welcome there; she is "much pleased with the place," and "admires the kindness of its inhabitants." Her home, however, was for some years to be in scenes far less congenial to her early habits than Plashet House in Essex, then the residence of her husband's parents.

It was common in those days for a junior partner to reside in the house of business: accordingly Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fry prepared to establish themselves at St. Mildred's Court, in the city of London. The house was large, airy, commodious, and, what in the city is a still more rare advantage, quiet, and continued to be an occasional residence of different members of the family, till it was pulled down in consequence of alterations in London.

Elizabeth Fry, was, by her marriage, brought into completely new circumstances; her husband's family had been members of the Society of Friends, since an early period after its foundation. In this it resembled her own; but, unlike her own parents, her father and mother-in-law, were "plain and consistent Friends:" she was surrounded by a large circle of new connexions and acquaintance, who differed from her own early associates, in being almost exclusively strict Friends. Thus she found herself the "gay, instead of the plain and

scrupulous one of the family." For a time this brought her into occasional difficulty and trial ; she often painfully felt the incongruity of the parties assembled at her house, formed of her own family, and nearest connexions, whom she so tenderly loved, and those with whom she was in strict religious communion but whose habits and sentiments differed from theirs ; and she feared for herself, lest in the "desire to please all," she should in any degree swerve from the line of conduct she believed right for herself.

Only a week after the young married pair had arrived at their home, George Dilwyn, from Philadelphia, a Friend engaged in religious service in London, became their guest. He remained with them above a month, and his company appears to have been useful and agreeable to them ; although his presence brought the bride into difficulty, on a point that at the present time seems almost inconceivable, that of reading the Holy Scriptures aloud in the morning. Family worship amongst all persuasions, was much less usual then than now ; and the habit of assembling the household at a stated hour daily, for domestic worship, was almost unknown. Excepting on Sunday evenings, Mr. and Mrs. Fry's servants were not partakers of this privilege during the earlier years of their married life.

A letter to a friend, written a few weeks later, is very descriptive of her inner life :—

Mildred's Court, First Month, 1801.

In referring to thy former letter, I remembered thou there hailed me as a fellow-traveller towards a better

country ; and I remember feeling encouragement from it : I am doubtful how far thou couldst now do so, but I trust, although I see little and feel hardly any thing of good in my own mind, that I am not yet quite forsaken as one dead to good works. I am at times ready to feel, what shall I do ? for, if I were sure this state was out of my own power, I need only quietly rest, hoping for better times ; but my fear is, that, from want of more watchfulness, I am so continually devoted to things of this world, as to blind my spiritual sight from observing things belonging to the other. There are times when my anxiety [for good is great indeed ; and for a short time, it is my endeavour to seek strength where I hope to find it ; but alas ! my good wishes and good endeavours are of short, very short duration. I often remember that part of Scripture (more particularly at Meeting) where our Saviour says to Simon, " Couldst thou not watch with me one hour ? " I feel able to draw some consolation from what I hear and read, when I see that others, so great and good, have found it hard to do so ; but I experience the force of the question. I have at times great fears that I may be led astray in matters of the first importance, for there is a power that will at times deceive the unwary mind, for we may remember, it can even put on the appearance of an angel of light. It was my lot, in very early life, to be much in company with Deists, and to be rather a warm advocate for their doctrines. I now in many shapes feel myself touched with these early imbibed opinions ; for it appears to me, that unless I be, by a very superior power, really lifted above these opinions, my poor weak

nature is apt to doubt almost everything. How poor is the enjoyment, how dark is our prospect, when the enlightening rays of true religion are taken from us ! I did not expect thus to have opened my heart to thee, but one thing led on to another. I now and then remember a remark of thine, that thou believed a soul was still living to that which is good, whilst it partook of that unity that the poor travellers Zion-ward are favoured to feel towards each other ; I have sometimes hoped, when thinking of it, that I am not yet quite dead to such things, as I feel my heart nearly drawn towards some of those whom I believe to be truly making progress in this blessed journey ; and while I at times so peculiarly love the disciple, I hope I am not an enemy to the Master.

As the spring advanced, the first that she passed in London, Elizabeth Fry greatly missed the range and expanse of Earlham. She writes with delight of the “violets and primroses, quite decorating the hedges” when she visited Norfolk in April, and the enjoyment of country scenes and country pleasures. She needed a little refreshment before preparing for the fatigues of the Friends’ Yearly Meeting—a vast undertaking for a young housekeeper and an inexperienced hostess.

During the fortnight occupied by the Yearly Meeting, St. Mildred’s Court was, according to a very general custom among the Society, an open house for the reception of the Friends assembled in London on that occasion, from all parts of the kingdom : some were inmates there during the time, whilst the parties at

dinner were generally very numerous. And these dinner parties were no slight affairs—preparation was daily made for sixty ; but so arranged, that if twenty more appeared, there was still enough and to spare. To save time, and lessen the difficulty for servants waiting in so crowded a room, the tables were covered at once with joints of roasted meats, besides dishes of salmon, then first in season, and mighty plum puddings at certain intervals. The company assembled round them, varied from the plainest Friends, to such as could scarcely be distinguished as belonging to the Society.

A curious remnant of a by-gone generation, was the appearance of the old and orthodox Friends at that period. The head-dress of the women often consisted of a plain cap, fitting closely to the head, and over this, the black silk hood so well known in pictures, to which, when abroad, was added a low crowned broad beaver hat : the voluminous folds, long-peaked waists, and stiff formality of the drab-coloured camlet gowns, contrasting far more strangely with the light and classic draperies then worn, brought into vogue during the French Revolution, than they would have done with the modern-antique fashions now prevailing.

There are generally two Meetings daily during the Yearly Meeting, the men and women Friends assembling at separate houses, to transact all business connected with the discipline of the Society. Strictly speaking, the members of the Yearly Meeting consist of the Representatives from the different Quarterly Meetings, into which the Society is divided, though the Meetings are open to all Friends who like to attend. The Quar-

terly Meetings, in like manner, consist of Representatives from the various Monthly Meetings into which they are subdivided. Certain queries have to be answered at the Monthly Meetings, and a *resumé* gathered from these various inquiries is forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. In like manner the Quarterly Meetings, from the Reports received from the Monthly Meetings, forward to the Yearly Meetings answers to the appointed queries. The system of Discipline, or Church Government amongst Friends, embraces a close and minute superintendence of their members, as to moral conduct and religious duties ; integrity in monetary dealings ; the education of their children ; adherence to certain principles peculiar to themselves, but which they deem becoming fruits of the Christian character, and liberal care for the necessities of their own poor. Nor does the benevolence of Friends end here ; they frequently, as a body, have presented addresses to Government, in behalf of the distressed and oppressed, and have raised considerable sums for their assistance. As individuals, they are active in promoting Schools, and in supporting the Bible Society.

In the present day, proselytism enters little, if at all, into the views of Friends, nor is it customary amongst them to introduce their peculiar tenets in their religious discourses ; but in general terms to urge upon their hearers the dangers and temptations of the world, to recommend a life of holiness, and to set forth the great truths of Christianity as revealed in the Scriptures.

CHAPTER IV.

ELIZABETH FRY A MOTHER, 1801—JOURNEY INTO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND—SECOND DAUGHTER, BORN 1803—BIRTH OF ELDEST SON, 1804; ILLNESS AFTER IT—HER SECOND SON, BORN 1806—DEATH OF HER MOTHER-IN-LAW—BIRTH OF HER FIFTH CHILD, 1808—DEATH OF HER SISTER, MRS. JOHN GURNEY—THE REV. EDWARD EDWARDS—DEATH OF HER FATHER-IN-LAW—REMOVAL TO PLASHET, ENJOYMENT OF THE COUNTRY—BIRTH OF HER SIXTH CHILD, 1809—SUMMONS INTO NORFOLK—DEATH OF HER FATHER—COMMENCEMENT OF HER PUBLIC MINISTRY—JOURNEY INTO GLOUCESTERSHIRE—BIRTH OF HER SEVENTH CHILD, 1811—ACKNOWLEDGED AS A MINISTER BY FRIENDS—CHRISTIAN ENLARGEMENT—PAROCHIAL OBJECTS.

WE have seen Elizabeth Gurney in her father's home, the dutiful and loving child, and as a wife anxiously endeavouring to fulfil her duties and adorn her allotted sphere. New hopes and fears, new cares and joys, now awaited her, and it is as a mother that we have to trace her course. Powerful, discerning, and self-possessed in fulfilling her vocation in the world and the church, in her own home she was pre-eminently the tender loving woman. No one ever handled a little child bodily or mentally as she; there was a cheerful tenderness in her voice, and smile, and manner, which never failed to attract and soothe. How truly woman's weakness was

mingled with her strength of character is very discernible in her journals. Her first child was born August 22, 1801.

Ninth Month, 12th.—I have hardly had time or strength as yet to describe the events I have lately passed through. I did not experience that joy some women describe when my husband first brought me my little babe, little darling! I hardly knew what I felt for it, but my body and spirits were so extremely weak, I could only just bear to look at those I loved. I felt the dear baby at first a quiet source of pleasure, but she early became a subject for my weakness and low spirits to dwell upon, so that I almost wept when she cried; but I hope, as bodily strength recovers, strength of mind will come with it.

Tenth Month, 1st.—My present feelings for the babe are so acute as to render me at times unhappy, from an over anxiety about her, such an one, as I never felt before for any one. Now it appears to me, this over anxiety arises from extreme love, weak spirits and state of health, and not being under the influence of principle, that would lead me to overcome these natural feelings, as far as they tend to my misery. For if I were under the influence of principle, I might trust that my dear infant was indeed under the care and protection of an infinitely wise and just Providence, that permits her little sufferings for some good end, that I know not of. How anxiously do I hope this poor dear baby may be held in resignation by me to the Divine will. Oh! that I might feel dependence on that Almighty arm about her and about other things. Beyond every thing

else, I wish to do my duty, idle and relaxed as I am in performing it.

Earlham, 21st.—We have had a comfortable journey ; meeting them at Thetford was very pleasant, they appeared so delighted to see us. I altogether entered this place in much agitation ; our reception was delightful ; my father and all so much admire our little darling, and seemed to love her so dearly that it was delightful to me ! It was indeed a striking sight to see them all meet her, so much real interest was shown.

In the October of the year following, Mrs. Fry travelled into the North of England with her husband. Soon after their return home, their family was increased by their brother, Samuel Gurney, coming to reside at St. Mildred's Court, that he might learn the details of business in London. In that great metropolis the advantage of his sister's watchful care was invaluable. She had been much attached to him when young ; and it was an interest and pleasure to her to have him for an inmate. Her labours were eminently blessed to him—and in his faithful love through life, she reaped a rich reward.

She thus records the birth of her second child, which took place, March 25th, 1803.

Fourth Month 12th.—My heart abounded with joy and gratitude when my dear little girl was born perfect and lovely. Words are not equal to express my feelings, for I was most mercifully dealt with, my soul was so quiet and so much supported.

A long and suffering illness followed this confinement ; even in June she speaks of herself as “soon overcome

and overdone," but after moving to Earlham in July, her strength rapidly returned. There the whole family assembled, an unbroken band, the father and his eleven children, Mr. Fry and the two little grandchildren.

But the family gathering was not to be of long continuance, for the fear of a French invasion, and the daily expectation of their landing, took such hold of people at this time, that Mr. Joseph Fry was summoned by his brother, "to be at his post." On his return, he found preparations had been made for flooding the marshes of the river Lee, and breaking down the bridges on the Essex road; whilst his father-in-law was also prepared, so soon as the French should land, to convey his daughters into the Isle of Ely, still regarded by the East Anglian portion of England as a "Camp of refuge."

The following year opened with the clouded atmosphere to be felt in a family circle, where any member of it appears approaching the confines of the eternal world.

Upton, Third Month, 15th, 1804.—Since I last wrote, I have more closely witnessed the scene of death, than I ever did before. Last First-day morning, about three o'clock, my mother-in-law died; I was with her at times on Seventh day, and although I have every reason to believe she died happily, I did not experience those awful, sweet feelings, I should have looked for, at so serious a time. On First-day morning, I went into the room, and sat some time with the corpse; it was very affecting to me to see it, and I was a good deal overcome, and felt it much. I have been surprised how little this event has led me into a serious state of mind,

I fear it has not had so profitable an effect upon me as it ought.

The death of her mother-in-law, a woman of powerful mind and understanding, united Elizabeth Fry still more closely with her husband's father, to whom she had been always much attached. From the time of her marriage, he had treated her with uniform kindness and attention ; and now in his affliction, it was her pleasure as well as her duty, to unite with his own children in soothing his declining years, and more time was consequently passed at Plashet with him, and his only daughter, Elizabeth.

At this period of her life, the poor occupied much of her attention, and notwithstanding the difficulties in a young delicate woman, personally visiting them in London, she persevered until withdrawn from it by residence in the country, and the increase of more important duties. Her determination to ascertain the truth, is well shown in the following anecdote.

One cold winter day she was accosted by a woman asking charity in the street, with a half-naked little child in her arms, very ill with the hooping cough : grieved at the appearance of the child, and her suspicions excited by the evasive answers of the woman, Mrs. Fry offered to accompany her home, and there relieve her necessities : this the woman tried to elude ; but determined on her purpose, she succeeded in following her into a low, back street, where, in a wretched, filthy house, the melancholy spectacle presented itself, of a number of sick and neglected infants, not only without comforts, but with every aggravation of misery.

The next day, when the medical attendant of her own children, went at her request to assist the little sufferers, he found the room empty, woman and children gone, nor any trace to be found of them. On inquiry among the neighbours, it was discovered, that these poor little objects were parish children, put to this woman to nurse, and that she kept them in this condition, not merely to assist her purposes of mendicity ; but that by shortening their lives, and then concealing their death, she might receive the pittance allotted for their maintenance.

So early as the year 1801, Elizabeth Fry's attention had been called to Joseph Lancaster, the founder of the Lancasterian, or monitorial system of instruction. Struggling under difficulties and pecuniary embarrassments, he had, notwithstanding, assembled a large school around him in Southwark ; she assisted him at this, and subsequent periods, and whilst she regretted his eccentricities, never ceased to value the benefit his mode of teaching and exertions had conferred upon his country.

After the birth of her eldest son in July, 1804, her health again most seriously failed, and long and very gradual was her restoration ; great distress and nervous irritability was her allotment. By experience in suffering, she was learning how to sympathize with the sufferings of others, and being prepared, unconsciously to herself, for the future history of her life.

Her fourth child (a son) was born in June, 1806. Early in December of the same year, Mr. and Mrs. Fry went to Earlham, to be present at the marriage of her sister Louisa to Samuel Hoare, Esq. of Hampstead, Mid-

dlesex. The party gathering on that occasion in the old hall at Earlham, formed a picture not to be forgotten after the lapse of almost fifty years ; the bride surrounded by that lovely sisterhood, alike dressed in white muslin, with white chip hats (the fashion of the day) their father pleased, yet full-hearted, Catherine, their mother-sister, with the careful look which early responsibility had given her, and the old servants, tearfully happy, attending upon them.

Earlham, Twelfth Month, 6th.—On Fourth day morning, the 24th, our dear Louisa was married at Tasborough Meeting. A very serious and interesting time to us all. My father, all of us eleven, my husband and Samuel Hoare. The Meeting was very solemn, and did to me sweetly license them in their solemn engagement ; it was like a seal set to it. There was testimony upon testimony, and blessing upon blessing, from the ministers present ; and what was better than all to me, a sweet inward covering over the Meeting. All appeared unity and love ; rather remarkable to see so large a family all so nearly sympathizing, and closely united. My dear brother John was sweet indeed, and deeply feeling ; may it last in him, and may he truly find the pearl of great price !

Newmarket, Twelfth Month 31st.—The last day of this year, looking forward to the next. Thou who knowest what our trials and temptations are, keep us faithful unto Thee ; preserve us from the snares of the enemy ; be with us all as a family ; and bless the dispensations of Thy Providence to us, by drawing us nearer to Thyself through them !

First Month, 6th, 1807.—My dear brother John, I believe, this morning will marry our dear cousin Elizabeth Gurney: may they truly prove blessings to each other, and to both families!

In February Mrs. Fry again travelled into Norfolk to attend the wedding of her sister Hannah. She was married to Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq., afterwards Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart. Thus were individuals linked together, afterwards to be so closely united in similar objects and interests. It is difficult to dis sever Elizabeth Fry in her career of singular usefulness, from her brothers, Samuel Gurney and Joseph John Gurney, or their brothers-in-law, Fowell Buxton and Samuel Hoare.

As the year closed, these questions are asked of “herself,” by Elizabeth Fry.

QUESTIONS FOR MYSELF.

First.—Hast thou this day been honest and true in performing thy duty towards thy Creator in the first place: and, secondly, towards thy fellow-creatures; or hast thou sophisticated and flinched?

Second.—Hast thou been vigilant in frequently pausing in the hurry and career of the day, to see who thou art endeavouring to serve; whether thy Maker or thyself? And every time that trial or temptation assailed thee, didst thou endeavour to look steadily to the Delivering Power—even to Christ who can do all things for thee?

Third.—Hast thou endeavoured to perform thy relative duties faithfully: been a tender, loving, yielding wife, where thy own will and pleasure were concerned;

a tender, yet steady mother with thy children, making thyself quickly and strictly obeyed, but careful in what thou requirest of them : a kind, yet honest mistress, telling thy servants of their faults, when thou thinkest it for their or thy good, but never unnecessarily worrying thyself or them about trifles : and to every one endeavouring to do as thou wouldest be done unto ?

Her fifth child was born February 19th, 1808. In the May following, Elizabeth, wife of her eldest brother, John, whose marriage was so lately mentioned, died, after a lingering illness. She was cut off in the bloom of youth, and the height of human happiness ; at a period when the large family, of which she was a member, were in the enjoyment of this world's brightest prosperity.

They possessed health, affluence, and rather uncommon endowments of person, disposition, and talent. Little acquainted with the trials of life, and intimately connected with each other, the shock occasioned by the early death of this beautiful young woman, vibrated with a sort of surprise as well as sorrow, to the utmost limits of their extensive circle. Death with its melancholy accompaniments was strange to them ; for this was their first affliction since the loss of their mother. It was the cause of arresting the hitherto unchecked stream of their prosperity ; yet in the overruling Providence of God, it was singularly blessed to them, from the effect produced upon their minds, and the circumstances that arose out of it.

By the desire of their widowed brother, the sisters sought for him in his extreme affliction, the visits and

counsels of the Rev. Edward Edwards, Lecturer of Saint Margaret's, Lynn. This gentleman, an early friend of Venn, acquainted with Scott and Newton, and at the time we speak of, in habits of intimacy with Mr. Simeon, of Cambridge, and other clergymen of similar sentiments, proved indeed, a messenger of good to the Gurney family ; who were all more or less awakened to the importance of a religious life, but were making their way through many difficulties and doubts, not one of them established in any form or sect, excepting Elizabeth Fry ; the others tending more or less to the Church of England or to Friends, but all anxious and alive to the subject. Mr. Edwards directed them in their affliction to the wisdom and the mercy of the hand that had smitten them ; and as time permitted them to turn their attention to controversial subjects, he supplied them with books, and assisted them in becoming acquainted with the differences existing in the Christian Church, and by leading them to study these subjects upon Scriptural grounds, enabled them to decide for themselves. It was not without pain, that she, who had so decidedly chosen the path of Friends, saw others so dear to her, as decidedly choosing another way and uniting themselves with the Church of England ; but, as each one became established in his own course, some one way, some the other, a wonderful union and communion sprang up among them, so that their bond in natural things, was not stronger than that which united them, as devoted worshippers of the same Lord.

As the autumn approached sickness and death were again permitted to enter her immediate circle. Elizabeth

Fry was now to partake personally in the solemn scene, on occasion of the decease of her father-in-law, William Storrs Fry. This event took place at St. Mildred's Court, where she had nursed him assiduously during some weeks' illness. To the latest period of her life, she dwelt with pleasure on the satisfaction and privilege of having been permitted to be a comfort and assistance to him, during his passage through the dark valley. He was a man of piety and amiability of disposition, and had endeared himself to her by gentleness and affectionate attention. He was in the habit of frequently driving to London from Plashet. The heavy coach with its bear-skin hammer-cloth and black horses was a pleasant sight to all, to the nursery party especially, for he brought with him an atmosphere of kindliness and love, and generally came laden with flowers or fruit, or some of those country productions so welcome to dwellers in a city. His decease produced an important alteration in the circumstances of his daughter-in-law—the removal of the family to Plashet.

To one who was alive to every sound and every object in nature, it was indeed a change, from the smoke and din of a crowded city to the tranquillity of a country life. It was a renewal of early tastes and pleasures, not the less appreciated for the years that had passed over her since she left her father's house. She had remarkably the talent of throwing aside graver objects, and for short intervals divesting herself of care. She would enjoy her garden and flowers, generally with some of her children about her, and then as quickly resume her employments. Although these occupations appeared indifferent, there

was unity of purpose in the whole. She desired to serve God in the fulfilment of her daily duties ; she offered to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving, by the spirit in which she accepted and enjoyed His beauties in creation. Her brow would relax, and her countenance beam with intelligence, as she explained to her children the wonders of the Heavenly bodies, the structure of an insect, or the growth and beauty of a flower.

Soon after their removal to Plashet, Mr. Fry made considerable alterations in the grounds. During her permitted intervals of relaxation, she gradually filled the plantations with wild flowers. Followed by her little ones, with their baskets and trowels, their old Norfolk nurse, whose love of primroses almost equalled her own, and Dennis Regan the Irish gardener, she would set forth to transplant seedlings, or deck fresh spots with that pale yellow flower, so profusely found in every copse, and on every green bank, not only at Earlham, but throughout her native county.

Happy is it, that in the dealings of God with man, there is so marvellous an adaptation to the respective powers and circumstances of each individual. When He demands unusual service, or peculiarly active devotion to the cause of religion upon earth, He frequently bestows with it a power in proportion, of receiving refreshment and delight from the outward blessings of life. That many refuse to enjoy, and deny themselves the good things that He has provided for His children, proves nothing against the bounty and indulgence of the hand which proffers them. After the deepest conflicts of spirit, amidst heavy and peculiar sorrows, she would turn with

a thankful heart to the blessings granted ; her courage raised, her faith strengthened, by thus dwelling on His wonderful goodness to the children of men.

Her sixth child was born on the 20th of September 1809. Scarcely had she recovered her strength, when at Tonbridge Wells, whither she had gone for change of air, she received an express summoning her to the death-bed of her beloved father.

Earlham, 30th.—I hardly know how to express myself: I have indeed passed through wonders. On the 26th, as we were sitting quietly together (after my dear sister Chenda had left us ; and my soul had bowed on my beloved father's account, of whom we had daily very poor reports), an express arrived bringing Chenda back, saying our most dear father was so ill, that they did not expect his life would be spared. Words fall short to describe what I felt, he was so tenderly near and dear to me ; we soon believed it best to set off for this place, on some accounts under great discouragement, principally from my own bodily weakness, and also the fever in the house ; but it did not appear as if we could omit it, feeling as we did ; therefore, after a tender parting with my beloved flock, my dearest Joseph, Chenda, and I, with the baby, set off. We arrived at Mildred's Court the first night, where our dear sister left us in hopes of seeing our beloved parent alive. In very great weakness I set off the next morning, and had at times great discouragements ; but many hours were comforting and sweet. Hearing on the road at the different stages that my dearest father was living, we proceeded till we arrived at Earlham, about twelve o'clock that night. We

got out of the carriage, and once more saw him, who has been so inexpressibly dear to me through life, since I knew what love was; he was asleep, but death was strongly marked on his sweet and to me beautiful face. While in his room all was sweetness, and I think nothing bitter, though how I feel his loss is hard to express: but indeed I have had abundant cause to rejoice on his account; after very deep probation, his mind was strikingly visited, and consoled at last, in passing through the valley of the shadow of death. He frequently expressed that he feared no evil, but believed that through the mercy of God in Christ, he should be received into glory; and this deep humility, and the tender and loving state he was in, were most valuable to those around him. He encouraged us, his children, to hold on our way; and most sweetly expressed his belief, that our love of good (in the degree we had it) had been a stimulus and help to him.

The next morning he died quite easily: I was not with him; but on entering his room, soon after it was over, my soul was bowed within me, in love, not only for the deceased, but also for the living, and in humble thankfulness, so that I could hardly help uttering (which I did) my thanksgiving and praise, and also what I felt for the living as well as the dead. I cannot understand it; but the power given was wonderful to myself, and the cross none; my heart was so full that I could hardly hinder utterance.

The words were the same as afterwards at the funeral, 'Great and marvellous are Thy works,' &c. Her sister Rachel thus describes it—"Dear Betsey uttered thanks-

giving, and a song of rejoicing, for the mercy that had been so richly extended to our beloved father ; and a prayer that it might be continued to us all."

I have desired since to leave this event ; but it was a glorious time, such an one as I never before passed through : all love, all joy, all peace, or the nearest I think to that state that I ever experienced. I had, the first night of coming, a few nervous and painful moments about the scarlet fever, on account principally of my beloved flock at home ; and a fear whether, in my weak state of body, it might not be too much for me. But love so powerfully drew me to them, that I believe I could not properly have staid away ; and indeed I have felt in my place, as far as I could tell. Should I forsake my beloved family in the day of trouble ?—I hope and believe not ! we have had most valuable and sweetly-enlivening times together : all love, I believe. I hope each of our hearts quickened, to feel fresh and renewed desire to be dedicated to His service, who has thus shown Himself in mercy to our beloved father. What can we render for all these benefits !

Eleventh Month, 3rd.—We attended our beloved father's funeral : before I went, I was so deeply impressed at times, with love to all and thanksgiving, that I doubted whether it might not possibly be my place to express it there ; but I did, the evening before, humbly crave not to be permitted to do so, unless rightly called to it. Fear of man appeared greatly taken away. I sat the Meeting under a solemn quietness, though there was preaching that neither disturbed nor enlivened me much ; the same words still powerfully impressed me, that had

done ever since I first entered the room where the corpse was. Upon going to the grave this still continued ; under this solemn quiet calm, the fear of man appeared so much removed, that I believe my sole desire was, that the will of God might be done in me. Though it was unpleasant to me what man might say ; yet I most feared lest it was a temptation owing to my state of sorrow ; but that, I fully believe, was not the case, as something of the kind had been on my mind so long. But it appeared more ripe the last few weeks, and even months, I had so often had to “ rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the God of my salvation,” that it had made me desire that others might partake and know how good He had been to my soul ; and to encourage them to walk in those paths, that I had found to be paths of pleasantness and peace. However, after a solemn waiting, my dear uncle Joseph spoke, greatly to my encouragement and comfort, and I believe removal of some of my fears. I remained still, till dearest John began to move to go away, when it appeared as if it could not be omitted ; and I fell on my knees, and began, not knowing how I should go on, with these words—“ Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty : just and true are all Thy ways, Thou King of Saints ; be pleased to receive our thanksgiving.” There I seemed stopped, though I thought that I should have had to express, that I gave thanks on my beloved father’s account. But not feeling the power continue, I arose directly ; a quiet, calm, and invigorated state, mental and bodily, were my portion afterwards ; and altogether a sweet day ; but a very painful night—discouraged on every side, I could

believe, by him who tries to deceive. The discouragement appeared to arise principally from what others would think, and nature flinched and sank, but I was enabled this morning to commit myself in prayer. May I be preserved in future, if my life be spared, from taking Thy holy name in vain ; enable me, if Thou seest meet, to follow hard after Thee, that I may know Thy voice, Thou Shepherd and Bishop of souls, and be as one of Thy sheep. It was my prayer this morning, to be able to turn from the subject, as my poor weak mind felt hardly able to look at it, which was in some measure the case. This day has altogether been a comfortable one, though very low at times, and having to walk in the valley, may I be enabled, if it be right for me, to trust and not to fear. I have greatly felt my beloved father's loss to-day ; and yesterday, though calm, I suffered much on his account ; he was in some things like my heart's delight, I so enjoyed to please him, and was so fond of him, that to hear of the sufferings he passed through, before he came to a state of reconciliation, greatly affected me to-day ; but I have had more comfort on his account than any thing else. The great love and kindness I have received from them all, and my uncle Joseph Gurney, has been encouraging to me, and my husband has been a true helpmate, and sweet counsellor.

With this event commences a new era in the life of Elizabeth Fry. To discuss the question of woman's ministry would be irrelevant here. One thing, however, is obvious, that it was as a minister of the Society of Friends, and as such only, shielded by its discipline,

and controlled by its supervision, that she could have carried out her peculiar vocation in the world and the church.

On returning home she detects in her own heart the dangers incident to her new position ; she “ feels flat on meeting her tenderly beloved little flock,” and desires that she “ may not be so occupied with the present state of her mind, as to its religious duties, as in any degree to omit close attention to all daily duties, her beloved husband, children, servants, poor, &c. ; but should she be permitted to enter the humiliating path that appeared opening before her, she may look well at home, and not discredit the cause she desired to advocate.”

Plasnet, First Month, 1st, 1810.—It is rather awful to me entering a new year, more particularly when I look at the alterations the last has made—most striking the last three months or a little more ! First, a child born ; second, the loss of nurse, at Earlham ; third, my beloved father’s death ; fourth, my mouth being opened in Meetings. My heart says, “ What can I render for having been so remarkably and mercifully carried through these various dispensations of Providence ?” I think I never knew the Divine Arm so eminently extended for my comfort, help and deliverance ; and though of late I may in a degree have had to pass through the valley of the shadow of death, yet it has not lasted long at a time, and oh, the incomings of love, joy, and peace, that have at other periods arisen for my confirmation and consolation ! But the manna of yesterday, I find will not do for to-day.

Towards the end of this year, Elizabeth Fry travelled

into Gloucestershire, taking three of her children, to visit her husband's eldest brother, Mr. William Fry and his wife, who were then residing at Hill House, near Rodborough, with the hope that Mrs. William Fry's extremely delicate health, might be benefited by the fine dry air. The visit proved pleasant and interesting. The lovely scenery around that beautiful place, gratified her natural taste, whilst her sister's serious illness closely touched her. Much warm affection subsisted between the brothers' wives; their unmarried sister, Elizabeth Fry, was also at Rodborough to assist in attendance on the invalid. On the Sunday evening when the family and domestics were assembled for Scripture reading, her sister-in-law upon the sofa, she believed it her duty to kneel in solemn prayer, in an especial manner commending the suffering wife and mother to the tender mercies of her God. The occasion was very overcoming, but abounding in consolation to her afflicted sister and her family, and to her own mind it proved a great relief, enabling her "to leave the place with a clear and peaceful heart, knowing of no burthen."

It was early in 1811, that Elizabeth Fry was publicly acknowledged by the Society of Friends as one of their ministers. Curious were the alternations in her life; having left Plashet for a few hours' business in London, her seventh child, Elizabeth, was rather unexpectedly born, at St. Mildred's Court, on the 20th of February.

St. Mildred's Court, Second Month, 26th.—Though confined to a lying-in-room, and not actively engaged, may I seek in all things to be acting in conformity to the Divine will; for this state has its temptations. May

the day's work, whatever it be, keep pace with the day !

Third Month, 14th.—My husband brought me word in the evening, that Friends had agreed to acknowledge me as a minister. This mark of their unity is sweet, and I think strengthening, and I believe will have advantages, as well as trials attending it. I feel and find it is neither by the approbation, any more than by the disapprobation of man, that we stand or fall ; but it once more leads me only to desire, that I may simply and singly follow my Master, in the way of His requirements, whatsoever they may be. I think this will make a way for me in some things, that have been long on my mind.

An entry in her journal a few months afterwards denotes some enlargement in the bonds which had hitherto confined her ; contrasted with the noble Christian liberality which adorned her later years, this extract is very curious.

Plasht, Eighth Month, 23rd.—We had three clergymen and their wives, besides another neighbour and his wife, here yesterday ; I believe good men, and I hope good women also, I felt love, and I think that sort of unity with them, that I have with good Friends. From a great fear of hurting others, I feel, though I believe it is not very apparent, a bowing to their opinions, and not openly professing my own, which tries me. There, no doubt, are advantages, as well as disadvantages, in associating with people of different descriptions, especially in being with the good ; we are increasingly led to estimate the good in all, and also to observe, how the

mercy of our heavenly Father is extended towards us, and how He sees meet to accept us in our different ways. But at the same time, there is safety in keeping within our narrow inclosure, more particularly for young people not established in principle. It may induce them to make the example of others a plea for more liberty, instead of rightly stimulating them to look at home and examine how far they are doing the work committed to them, which should be the effect of seeing others zealously pursuing their course. It is also important, as children become marriageable, with whom they associate, and parents should in this, as in other things, keep on the watch, and seek the best direction how far to go and where to stop. But my feelings of love would lead me almost to encourage an intimacy with one of these clergymen and his wife ; but I desire to be rightly directed, and if we are likely to lose more than we gain by not holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering, then I hope not to encourage it. I leave it, thinking it will make its own way, which I trust will be the right one ; but Friends being so much united with others, and brought so forward in works of benevolence, may prove a snare by flattering them and taking them off their guard. It is on account of schools that we have been thus brought together.

In establishing herself at Plashet, Mrs. Fry had formed various plans for the benefit of her poorer neighbours, which she gradually brought into action. One of her early endeavours was to establish a girls' school for the Parish of East Ham, of which Plashet is a hamlet. Immediately opposite the gate of Plashet

House, there stood a dilapidated dwelling, picturesque from its gable end and large projecting porch ; it was inhabited by an aged man and his still more aged sister ; they had seen better days, and eked out a narrow income with the help of the brother's labours in a small garden, and the sale of rabbits, of which they kept a vast quantity. Like persons fallen in life, they were reserved ; the sister almost inaccessible. But by degrees Mrs. Fry won her way to the old lady's heart ; she might be seen seated in an upper chamber, on one side of a fire-place lined with blue Dutch tiles, opposite the invalid, who, propped by cushions, leaned back in an easy chair, in a short white dressing-gown over a quilted petticoat, her thin wrinkled hands resting on her knees, and her emaciated refined countenance brightening under the gentle cheering influence of her guest, as she endeavoured to raise her hopes and stimulate her desires after that country, where it shall be no more said, " I am sick." Annexed to this old building was a spacious and comparatively modern room, which appeared suitable for a school-room, and Mrs. Fry's persuasions succeeded in obtaining the consent of the old people to use it as such.

A young woman, named Harriet Howell, who was much occupied at that time in organizing schools on the Lancasterian system, came to Plashet. The excellent clergyman of East Ham (alluded to in the journal), Mr. Anlezark, with his lady, united with her in the object. A school of about seventy girls was established, and, although afterwards removed to a more central situation, continues to the present day.

The bodily wants of the poor, especially in cases of sickness or accident, claimed her careful attention. There was a depôt of calico and flannels always ready, besides outer garments, and a roomy closet well supplied with drugs. In very hard winters, she had soup boiled in an out-house, in such quantities, as to supply hundreds of poor people with a nourishing meal. Nor was her interest confined to the English poor in East Ham. About half a mile from Plashet, on the high road between Stratford and Ilford, the passer by will find two long rows of houses, with one larger one in the centre, if possible more dingy than the rest. At that time they were squalid and dirty. Windows stuffed with old rags, or pasted over with brown paper, and the few remaining panes of glass refusing to perform their intended office from the accumulated dust of years; puddles of thick black water before the doors; children without shoe or stocking; mothers, whose matted locks escaped from remnants of caps which looked as though they never could have been white; pigs, on terms of most comfortable familiarity with the family; poultry, sharing the children's potatoes—all bespoke an Irish colony.

It was a pleasant thing to observe the influence obtained by Mrs. Fry over these wild but warm-hearted people. She had in her nature a touch of poetry, and a quick sense of the droll—the Irish character furnished matter for both. Their power of deep love and bitter grief excited her sympathy; almost against her judgment, she would grant the linen shirt and the boughs of evergreen to array the departed, and ornament the bed of death.

It was a clear frosty morning, when Mrs. Fry called her elder children to accompany her on a visit to one of these cottages. A poor woman, the mother of a young family, had died there ; she had been well conducted as a wife and mother, and had long shown a desire for religious instruction. The priest, a kind-hearted, painstaking man, liberal in his views, and anxious for the good of his flock, thought well of the poor woman, had frequently visited her in her illness, and was in that as in many other cases, very grateful to Mrs. Fry for the relief and nourishment she had bestowed, which it was not in his power to give. On the bed of death lay extended the young mother, a paper cross upon her breast, her features, which were almost beautiful, stiffened into the semblance of marble. Her little children were on the floor, the husband, in a corner leaning on a round table, with his face buried in his hands. The sun shone into the room, as though in mockery of the dreary scene. The apartment was close, from the fumes of tobacco and the many guests of the wake held during the night, contrasting strangely with the fresh air which blew in through the half-opened door-way. Mrs. Fry spoke soothingly to the husband ; she reminded him of his wife's desires for his good, and for that of his children ; she slightly alluded to the uselessness of the cross as a symbol, but urged the attention of those present to the great doctrine of which it was intended to remind them. Again, she offered solace to the mourner, promised assistance for his little ones, and left the room.

Some of the scenes in Irish Row were very different, "Madam Fry," as she was called by them, being so

popular as to produce some inconveniences and many absurdities. She enjoyed giving pleasure ; it was an impulse as well as a duty with her to do good ; gathering her garments round her, she would thread her way through children and pigs, up broken staircases, and by narrow passages to the apartments she sought ; there she would listen to their tales of want or woe, or of their difficulties with their children, or of the evil conduct of their husbands. She persuaded many of them to adopt more orderly habits, giving little presents of clothing as encouragements ; she induced some to send their children to school, and with the consent of the priest, circulated the Bible amongst them. On one occasion, when the weather was extremely cold, and great distress prevailed, being at the time too delicate herself to walk, she went alone in the carriage, literally piled with flannel petticoats for Irish Row ; the rest of the party walking to meet her, to assist in the delightful task of distribution. She made relieving the poor a pleasure to her children, by the cheerful spirit in which she did it ; she employed them as almoners when very young, but expected a minute account of their giving, and their reasons for it. After the establishment of the Tract Society, she always kept a large supply of such as she approved, for distribution. It was her desire never to relieve the bodily wants of any one, without endeavouring in some way, more or less directly, to benefit their souls. She was a warm advocate for vaccination, and very successful in performing the operation ; she had acquired this art from Dr. Willan, one of its earliest advocates and most skilful practitioners. At

intervals, she made a sort of investigation of the state of the parish, with a view to vaccinating the children. The result was, that smallpox was scarcely known in the villages over which her influence extended.

In a green lane, near Plashet, it has been the annual custom of the Gypsies to pitch their tents for a few days in their way to Fairlop fair. The sickness of a gipsy child, inducing the mother to apply for relief, led Mrs. Fry to visit their camp. From that time, from year to year, she cared for them whenever they came into her neighbourhood; clothing for the children and people, and a little medical advice, she invariably bestowed; but she did far more than that, she sought to influence their minds aright, she pleaded with them on the bitter fruits of sin, and furnished them with Bibles, and books the most likely to arouse their attention.

But though thus abounding in labours for the good of all around her, she was liable to deep inward discouragements, undoubtedly increased by her sensitive nature and delicate frame, but arising chiefly from her intense desire in nothing to offend Him whom her soul loved and whom she so entirely desired to serve.

CHAPTER V.

NORWICH BIBLE SOCIETY—MORE EXTENDED INTERCOURSE WITH OTHERS—EFFECTS UPON HER MIND—JOURNEY WITH HENRY HULL AND HER SISTER, PRISCILLA GURNEY—LETTER TO THE REV. EDWARD EDWARDS—DEATH OF A DOMESTIC SERVANT—BIRTH OF HER EIGHTH CHILD, 1812—REMOVAL TO LONDON FOR THE WINTER—NEWGATE FOR THE FIRST TIME, FEBRUARY 1813—STATE OF THAT PRISON.

In September 1811, Mrs. Fry visited Earlham. On the 10th of that month, was held the first meeting of the Norwich Bible Society; it was very largely attended. Mrs. Fry who was warmly interested in the Bible Society, from its commencement to the close of her life, was present with her brother Joseph John Gurney, and other members of the family. Mr. Gurney, then in the prime of early manhood, on this occasion first took his stand in public life, as an advocate for the general circulation of that sacred volume, which he chose as the guide of his youth, which proved the stay of his advancing years, and his best consolation in the hour of death.

Earlham, Ninth Month, 10th.—I think a more deeply exercised state, that has at time bordered on distress of soul, I hardly ever remember, than I feel this morning going to Meeting; in the first place, with the Edwardses,

and my own family, in their various states ; in the next place, my prospect of going into the men's Monthly Meeting ; and in the last, an idea having passed my mind, whether I may not have, amongst the very large companies, who are likely to be here, consisting of many clergymen and others, to say something, either before meals, or at some other time. The words that (I believe) have arisen for my encouragement, are these, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." Yes, I will try not to fear, for if God be with me, who can be against me ?

12th.—What can I render for all His benefits ? In the first place, I went to the Meeting of worship with the Edwardses. I had not long been there, before I felt something of a power accompanying me, and words arose, but my exercise of mind was so great, that it seemed like being "baptized for the dead : " though not that I know of, from any particular fear of man ; I was helped (I believe I may say) as to power, tongue, and utterance. That Meeting might be said to end well ; our beloved Friends Richard Philips, and H—— E—— were also engaged in the ministry.

Yesterday was a day indeed : one that may be called a mark of the times. We first attended a General Meeting of the Bible Society, where it was sweet to observe so many of various sentiments all uniting in the one great object, from the good Bishop of Norwich (Bathurst) for so I believe, he may be called, to the dissenting Minister, and young Quaker (my brother Joseph). We afterwards, about thirty-four of us, dined here ; I think there were six clergymen of the Establishment ; three

dissenting Ministers ; and Richard Phillips, besides numbers of others. A very little before the cloth was removed, such a power came over me of love, I believe I may say life, that I thought I must ask for silence after Edward Edwards had said grace, and then supplicate the Father of mercies for His blessing, both of the fatness of the earth, and the dew of Heaven, upon those, who thus desired to promote His cause, by spreading the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures ; and that He would bless their endeavours, that the knowledge of God and His glory might cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea. Also for the preservation of all present, that through the assistance of His grace we might so follow Him, and our blessed Lord, in time, that we might eventually enter into a glorious eternity, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. The power and solemnity were very great. Richard Phillips asked for silence ; I soon knelt down ; it was like having our High Priest amongst us ; independently of this power His poor instruments are nothing, and with His power, how much is effected. I understood many were in tears, I believe all were bowed down spiritually. Soon after I took my seat, the Baptist minister, said, “ This is an act of worship ; ” adding that it reminded him of that which the disciples said, “ when He walked with us, did not our hearts burn within us.” A clergyman said, “ We want no wine, for there is that amongst us, that does instead.” A Lutheran minister remarked, that although he could not always understand the words, being a foreigner, he felt the Spirit of Prayer, and went on to enlarge in a striking manner. Another

clergyman spoke to this effect—How the Almighty visited us, and that neither sex, nor any thing else stood in the way of His grace. I do not exactly remember the words of any one, but it was a most striking circumstance, for so many of such different opinions, thus all to be united in one spirit ; and for a poor woman to be made the means, amongst so many, great, wise, and, I believe, good men, of showing forth the praise of the great “ I Am.” After reading last evening, the dear Lutheran minister, Dr. Steinkoff, said a few words in prayer. This morning, my desire, indeed I believe I may say prayer, is, that this may not degenerate into a form amongst us, and I should not be surprised, if I had to express as much ; however, that I leave. Be pleased, O Lord ! still to preserve me on the right hand, and on the left, and let me in no way do contrary to Thy will ; and if called upon to testify that I can only unite in prayer, where I apprehend Thy Spirit leads into it, enable me I beseech Thee to do it so, as to strengthen, rather than weaken, the love that I feel so sweetly to unite me with those who differ from myself.

The personal and particular providence of God, in His dealings with men, is never more proved than in the varied and apparently contrary means by which He brings them to a saving knowledge of Himself. In the case of Mrs. Fry, we observe results consonant to her peculiar circumstances, and to the instruments used to awaken her from the sleep of death to a life of righteousness. It is impossible to doubt, but that God Himself, by His Holy Spirit, opened her heart to receive the glad tidings of salvation ; although, at that time, her know-

ledge of the great scheme of man's Redemption, appears to have been obscure and indistinct. She was like a mariner, who, not fully acquainted with the chart and compass by which to pursue the voyage, is yet guided by an invisible hand into the Harbour of Refuge. Her heart was dedicated with that reverential love, so conspicuous in her character. Her becoming a minister, awful to her nature, terrible to her as a delicate and timid woman, she yet received with thankfulness, inasmuch as she considered it a token of being owned by Him, and employed in His service. Far different to those, who, well versed in the theory of religion, and observant of its outward forms, have not given their hearts to the Lord. The time had, however, arrived, when He, who had great things for her to perform in the world and the Church, so willed it, that this devoted servant should be furnished with "all knowledge," as well as "spiritual understanding;" and having proved the grounds of her confidence, should be able, from the great treasury of Biblical Truth, to give a reason for the hope that was in her.

Some of her sisters having joined the Church of England from conviction, and at the same time adorning their profession by an eminently spiritual and self-denying life, had its effect upon her, and prepared the way for further intercourse and union with others, who differed from herself in the externals of religion.

In her intercourse with them, she was frequently driven to the defence of her own opinions; and to do this, it became necessary that they should not only be clearly defined to her own mind, but that she should be

able so to express them, as to render them intelligible to others.

With Mr. Edwards, Mr. Simeon, Mr. Francis Cunningham, (afterwards her brother-in-law,) and many persons of similar sentiments, she had frequent intercourse. Whilst in some things they differed, as the stream from which they drank diverged into various channels—she learned to acknowledge that it flowed from the same fountain of everlasting truth. The Bible Society bringing her into contact with many excellent and devoted Christians of other denominations, tended to the same result, and to induce those liberal and expansive feelings towards all whom she believed to love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, which, from that time, became marked and growing features in her character.

Soon after Mrs. Fry's return from Norfolk, her baby became seriously ill ; scarcely was this anxiety removed, before one of her sisters had the affliction of losing an infant daughter, just the age of Mrs. Fry's little Elizabeth. The event was very affecting to her, and touched her tenderest feelings ; her exceeding love of her own little children, extending in an unusual degree to those of her brothers and sisters.

Eleventh Month, 18th, Afternoon.—The funeral of dear little Susannah Buxton has taken place to-day. The event of her death has been very affecting to me, and most unexpected to us all ; this day week, she only appeared to have a cold ; she was one of the loveliest, sweetest, and most lively of little babes. She appeared to suffer little in her illness. I was not there at her death, but comfort was then near to her dear mother,

and faith that strengthened her to believe it was well, and that her spirit had ascended unto God who gave it. This was very much the case with me when there after her death ; but, naturally, it has been a close stroke, the child was very dear to me, but consolation has been near.

The following month Elizabeth Fry, for the first time, undertook a journey in the capacity of a minister amongst Friends ; she was accompanied by Henry Hull, a valuable Friend from America, at this time on a religious visit to England ; and a frequent guest at Plashet. Her youngest sister, Priscilla Gurney, then turning towards the opinions and practices of Friends, went with them. In the Spring she attended the monthly and quarterly meetings at Norwich. But whilst thus becoming more and more the decided "Quaker," Elizabeth Fry was obviously advancing even more rapidly on the broad grounds of general Christianity. To the Rev. Edward Edwards she writes—

MY BELOVED FRIEND,

Thy letter is one I do not desire lightly to answer, as I wish to receive it and attend to it with the seriousness it deserves, as coming from one, who I believe desires the prosperity of truth individually and generally, and in this desire, has with love addressed me for my own good, and also the good of the body to which I belong. I hope to profit by it ; I am spiritually but a child, "I think as a child, I speak as a child, and I understand as a child." I do not believe that the great mysteries of the gospel are by any means fully opened to me ; but my dependence is on Him who has so far opened my

eyes, that he will in His own time further enlighten me, confirm, settle, and strengthen me in that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Thus far I believe, from having experienced what it is to feel alienated or separated from my God, no doubt by corruptions and sin. I experienced the state of being under the law. I may truly say, "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing, for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not ; for the good that I would I do not ; but the evil which I would not, that I do." Thus I have experienced and do yet experience, that it is not in me, or my fleshly nature, to do or to will any good thing. And how naturally do these words arise, "O ! wretched man, (or woman), that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death !" Then comes the Saviour, then comes the Deliverer, to whom can I go, but to Him, who alone has the words of eternal life ? I feel ashamed of now bringing my experiences forward, as it is with humility and confusion of face that I may acknowledge, I have also felt what it is in a measure to be in Christ Jesus ; "for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, make thus free from the law of sin and death ; for what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in those who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." I have thus quoted Scripture, because I know of no other way of so clearly expressing my own faith, and experience in measure, and also what I

believe to be the faith of the body (though there may be unbelievers amongst us as well as others,) that we lay aside all our own works, and believe we neither will nor do of ourselves, but that it is God, or the saving power of Christ, that worketh in us to will and to do ; that we desire alone to give all the glory to Him, of whatever is done to his praise, believing Him to be the author and finisher of our faith, and our only hope of glory. The work of regeneration is a gradual one, and I feel, if alive at all, only a beginner, therefore do not understand that I feel free from the law of sin and death ; but I believe if the spirit of Christ in us be permitted to operate, and is not resisted by our wills, we may experience a being made free from the law of sin and spiritual death, even here below.

A fragment about this date, found between the leaves of her journal, gives some idea of her home life.—Plan to try for children. Boys sent to tutor, after our reading. Little ones with me till nearly ten o'clock ; again from two to three ; from after dinner till seven. See the elder girls at lessons twice during the morning, and have them with me from one till two ; boys and girls from seven till eight, together ; besides their being at meals now and then.

The summer abounded in engagements ; family guests ; visits from the sick and afflicted ; many home cares ; so as to weigh down her natural spirits, causing her “to pant for rest,” and crave power to subdue the “irritability excited by her very numerous interests and bodily infirmities.” An event in her own household also claimed her attention, the illness and death of one of the servants.

Her own accounts exemplified the state of her religious mind, her earnest desire to do the thing that was right, and yet the difficulty she experienced in knowing in what her duty consisted.

Ninth Month, 2nd.—This morning, our poor servant who has for some weeks kept his bed very seriously ill, died. I feel that I have cause for humble gratitude, in having been at the awful time strengthened by faith; and I believe, I may say, having experienced the Divine presence near; I have often sat and watched by his bedside, desiring to know whether I had any thing to do or say, as to his soul's welfare. I found neither feeling, faith, nor ability, to say or do much more than endeavour to turn his mind towards his Maker, but I think never more than once in any thing of the anointing power. Yesterday morning I found him much worse, a struggle upon him, that appeared breaking the thread of life, and his sufferings great, mentally and bodily. The first thing I found in myself was, that a willing mind was granted me, and in sitting by him, the power and spirit of supplication and intercession for him arose, to which I gave way; it immediately appeared to bring a solemn tranquillity; his pains and restlessness were quieted; his understanding I believe was quite clear; he thanked me, and said once or twice, "God bless you, ma'am," as if he felt much comfort in what had passed. Faith, love, and calmness, were the covering of my mind. He had, I believe, only, one or two more slight struggles after I left him; after that I was sent for, and found that the conflict appeared over, and he breathed his last in about a quarter of an hour. There was pecu-

liar sweetness, and great silence and solemnity in the room. I had to acknowledge that I believed the mercy of our Heavenly Father was then extended towards him, and to express a desire, that it might in the same awful moment be extended towards us, feeling how greatly we stood in need of mercy. The rest of the day passed off as well as I could expect ; I feared lest the servants and others should attribute that praise to me, with which I had nothing to do, for I could not have prayed, or found an answer to prayer, without an anointing from the Most High. It led me to feel it a blessing to be entrusted with this sacred and precious gift ; for though ministers may have much to pass through, and many crosses to take up, for their own good and that of others, yet, it is a marvellous gift when the pure life stirs, and brings down strongholds. My nerves were rather shaken, so as to make me naturally fearful, at times, the rest of the day. I have a great desire, that this event may be blessed to the household, more particularly the servants, that it may humble and bow their spirits, that they may live more in love, and grow in the knowledge of God, and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It will be difficult for those who knew Mrs. Fry only in later life, and her zealous endeavours to obtain for all within her reach religious instruction, and the hearing or reading of the Bible, to comprehend her not affording a member of her own household, under serious protracted illness, more regular instruction on matters of such vast importance. The dispensation into which she had been brought, acting upon her timid nature, induced extreme fear of " running before she was sent," or treading " un-

bidden upon holy ground ;" when on the contrary, she believed that it was the Master's voice which called, there was neither place nor circumstance that could arrest her steps.

After a time, it pleased Him, who was guiding his servant according to the purposes of His own will, by an increased acquaintance with human nature, and more general association with all sorts of men, to teach her, that the Omnipotent works by outward providences and second causes, and whilst the Holy Spirit can alone bless and fructify ; it is none the less the duty of man in simple obedience to the written word, to use every opportunity in his power to sow the good seed, trusting to God to give the increase.

The funeral of the servant was fixed for the following Sunday ; as the time approached, Mrs. Fry earnestly desired that the occasion might be one of benefit to others, as well as to her own family, as several of his friends were to be present, some of them from the immediate neighbourhood.

She proposed that in the evening all the assembled guests should be invited to attend the family reading with her own household, but before the hour arrived for the performance of a duty which was to her exceedingly weighty, she was summoned to visit Eliza, the newly-married wife of her cousin Mr. James Sheppard, who was rapidly sinking into the grave. The afflicted husband and sister were deeply needing the skilful tenderness with which she could meet such exigencies. At the Friends' Meeting, in the morning, her heart had been strengthened, and apparently prepared for the duties of the day.

By the bed of languishing we find her, waiting for that unction, without which she was sensible that her services could avail nothing; and the same evening, in her own dwelling, when surrounded by about forty besides her children, she speaks in exhortation and prayer. Her address was closely suited to the state of the different persons present. After offering the word of consolation to the weeping relatives and friends, unflinchingly did she impress upon others, that the "way of transgressors is hard." The occasion was long remembered by individuals who were there, and who attributed their permanent improvement to the solemn truths they then heard, and for the first time effectively received into their hearts.

Her eighth child was born September 12th, 1812. Circumstances rendered it expedient for Mr. and Mrs. Fry to spend part of the winter of 1812-13 in London, but as their tarriance there was to be a very short one, it was not thought necessary to remove the clerks and servants usually residing at St. Mildred's Court, the size of the house admitting their continuance without interfering with the arrangements of the family. The circumstances of so many young men being thus under the same roof with themselves, in Mrs. Fry's estimation, involved the duty of including them in the family worship, though she found it a matter not easy to arrange.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 12th, 1813.—At last I have been enabled to accomplish my desire, in having the greater part of our family here, present at the Scripture reading in the morning; it has been to me a very

humbling thing, and I may say trying; the difficulty, reluctance, and lukewarmness, about it, that appeared to exist, being such, that I was obliged to beg my beloved husband to ask it for me. It was very exercising on the First day morning when we met; but through all, unusual peace has been my portion, in giving up to it. It has been entered into more by faith than by sight, as it appeared so very discouraging, others not uniting in what seems to me so important a duty; but I have a secret hope and belief, that good will come of it, if the Lord will be pleased to bless and strengthen me in it. Oh! saith my soul, may it tend to our sanctification and redemption. Be pleased, O Lord! so to bless it, that it become not a dead form, but may it enliven our hearts towards Thee, and enable Thy poor hand-maid to be a faithful minister of Thy word amongst them, so as to be made instrumental in drawing some nearer to Thee. I am thankful for being so far helped on my way, and for a little peace within, when discouragement was without.

Dated St. Mildred's court, February 16, 1813, we read in her journal:

16th.—Yesterday we were some hours at Newgate with the poor female felons, attending to their outward necessities; we had been twice previously. Before we went away, dear Anna Buxton uttered a few words in supplication, and very unexpectedly to myself I did also. I heard weeping, and I thought they appeared much tendered; a very solemn quiet was observed; it was a striking scene, the poor people on their knees around us, in their deplorable condition.

Thus simply and incidently, is recorded Elizabeth Fry's first entrance upon the scene of her future labours. The seed was sown, but it took time to germinate, and four years were to elapse before the way should be made clear for her to put forth her hand to the great work of her life.

In January of this year, four members of the Society of Friends, all well known to Elizabeth Fry, had visited some persons in Newgate who were about to be executed. Although no mention is made of the circumstance in the journal, it has always been understood that the representations of these gentlemen, particularly those of William Forster, one of their number, first induced her, personally to inspect the state of the women, with the view of alleviating sufferings occasioned them by the inclemency of a very cold winter.

At that time, all the female prisoners in Newgate, were confined in the part now known as the untried side. The larger portion of the quadrangle was then used as a state-prison. The partition wall was not of sufficient height to prevent the state-prisoners overlooking the narrow yard, and the windows of the two wards and two cells, of which the women's division consisted. These four rooms comprised about one hundred and ninety superficial yards, into which, at the time of these visits, nearly three hundred women with their numerous children, were crowded; tried and untried misdemeanants and felons, without classification, without employment, and with no other superintendence than that given by a man and his son, who had charge of them by night and by day. Destitute of sufficient

clothing, for which there was no provision ; in rags and dirt, without bedding, they slept on the floor, the boards of which were in part raised to supply a sort of pillow. In the same rooms they lived, cooked, and washed.

With the proceeds of their clamorous begging, when any stranger appeared amongst them, the prisoners purchased liquors from a regular tap in the prison. Spirits were openly drunk, and the ear was assailed by the most terrible language. Beyond the restraint necessary for safe custody, there was little check over their communication with the world without.

Although military sentinels were posted on the leads of the prison, such was the lawlessness prevailing, that Mr. Newman, the governor, entered this portion of it with reluctance. Fearful that their watches should be snatched from their sides, he advised the ladies (though without avail) to leave them in his house.

Into this scene Mrs. Fry entered, accompanied only by one lady, a sister of Sir T. F. Buxton. The sorrowful and neglected condition of these depraved women and their miserable children, dwelling in such a vortex of corruption, deeply sank into her heart, although at this time nothing more was done than to supply the most destitute with clothes. A vivid recollection of the green baize garments, and the pleasure of assisting in their preparation for this purpose, is still retained in her family. She carried back to her home, and into the midst of other interests and avocations, a lively remembrance of all that she had witnessed in Newgate, which, within four years, induced that systematic effort for

ameliorating the condition of these poor outcasts, so signally blessed by Him, who said, "That joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance."

CHAPTER VI.

MANY SORROWS—ILLNESS DURING THE SPRING—HER NINTH CHILD BORN 1814—ILLNESS AND DEATH OF HER BROTHER, JOHN GURNEY—HOME-LIFE—DOMESTIC DUTIES—DEATH OF ONE OF HER CHILDREN—EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS—HER TENTH CHILD BORN 1816—LEAVES HER FOUR ELDER CHILDREN IN NORFOLK—ALONE, BUT NOT ALONE.

NOT only did a considerable space of time elapse after Elizabeth Fry's first visits to Newgate before she renewed them, but in the interim many events occurred of deep import to herself. He who "sits as a Refiner and Purifier of silver," saw well to exercise her in the school of affliction, before raising her up for the remarkable work she had to do. Long and distressing indisposition, the death of her brother, John Gurney, that of her paternal friend, Joseph Gurney Bevan, the loss of a most tenderly-beloved child; considerable loss of property, separation for a time from all her elder children, were among the means used by Him who cannot err, to teach her the utter instability of every human possession, to draw her heart more entirely to Himself, and to prepare her for His service. The rare combination in her natural character of the extremes of courage and timidity, were not more remarkable, that in her spiritual course, her holy boldness and confiding love contrasted with her dread of in anything offending her

“ Holy Helper,” as she loved to designate Him to whom her heart was given.

Eleventh Month, 25th.—On third day, my beloved husband, with our children, attended the Monthly Meeting, where our certificate was received.

I should say that the day was begun by returning thanks in my own family, amongst my children, husband, and servants, to my peace ; the rest of the day passed in much domestic comfort with my husband at home. This was one of the very bright days of life ; blessings are abundantly granted, and sometimes even a blessing upon the blessings, that makes all feel sweet and lovely !

This certificate alluded to was from Gracechurch Street Meeting to that of Plaistow, in accordance with the discipline of Friends, to recommend Joseph and Elizabeth Fry and their children, as members of that Meeting ; their removal to Plashet having brought them within its compass.

The birth of her ninth child took place on the 11th of June 1814.

21st.—My soul cannot help feeling greatly bound in gratitude for the many and great benefits received ; thanksgiving is the voice of my heart, though something of anxiety and disquietude has been my portion, more particularly, on account of my beloved husband and children. I also desire to settle my household aright, to walk before them with an upright, humble, and perfect heart, fulfilling the Law and the Gospel. I desire to be scrupulously nice as to my conduct towards servants ; if they revile, revile not again, not even in

heart ; I am not tempted in word to revile them, but I may speak too freely of them, for they at times grieve me by their apparent ingratitude, and want of consideration ; but may I bear as I desire to be borne with. In some instances, I am amply rewarded by their gratitude and love ; in others much wounded by them. I thought, if not saying too much for myself, that I have wept as between the porch and the altar on their account, and on that of my beloved family altogether ; I feel it cause for much thanksgiving, so far to be restored to them again, but my natural spirits at times are overcome. Grant wisdom and grace, O Lord ! I pray Thee, to Thy poor child, to order her steps aright before them all, being wise as the serpent and harmless as the dove.

Elizabeth Fry had held on her way, " faint yet pursuing" through a long and peculiarly distressing state of illness and suffering ; she had naturally the utmost shrinking from bodily pain ; it was terrible to her, for herself or others. Now she was able to rejoice in the blessing given, and the possession of another infant, always so welcome to her motherly and loving nature.

As soon as her health was sufficiently restored to admit of it, Mrs. Fry took a journey to Earlham to see her brother John Gurney, who was then rapidly declining. He had never recovered the shock of his wife's death six years before, nor the bodily fatigue which he had undergone in his attendance upon her. As the things of this world failed him, he laid hold of more enduring realities ; he who had been eminent for beauty of person and fascination of manner, became as remarkable for the graces of

the Christian life ; and the spirit of deep submission with which he endured his infirmities, was alone surpassed by his child-like faith in his Redeemer, and the joy and peace he knew in believing.

Mrs. Fry has been at home scarcely three weeks, when she was summoned again into Norfolk to the dying bed of her brother. The scene closed the following day ; she describes it in a letter to her family at home.

*“ Earlham, Ninth Month, 8th, 1814,
(by the remains of my beloved brother).*

“ MY MUCH-LOVED HUSBAND AND CHILDREN.

“ Believing you will feel with me in what so nearly concerns me, and not only me, but you also, I sit down to tell you, as nearly as I can, what has happened since I came here. I believe you know I arrived about four o'clock yesterday morning. I was then led into the room where my tenderly-beloved brother lay in bed ; he was awake, but some feared he would not know me, instead of which, upon seeing me, his words were—‘ My dear sister, come and kiss me ;’ then he expressed his great pleasure at our being together ; he looked very sweet—quite easy, may I not say like one redeemed ? After staying some time by him, I went to bed ; but I did not rest much, feeling low, burdened, and rather poorly. My dear sister Priscilla came to me a little past nine o'clock, and advised me to come, he was so very bright, his powers of mind appearing much clearer than any dying man I ever witnessed, except our poor servant John. Upon going into his room, he kissed us each

again, and again said he wished for all his sisters together, appearing clearly to recollect each ; for upon one saying—‘ Now there is no exception, all the sisters are with thee ;’ he at first misunderstood, and said—‘ Did you say there is one exception, for there is not,’ or to that effect : he said it was delightful how we loved one another. It appeared my place to return thanks for such unspeakable blessings. He then said—‘ What a sweet prayer !’ and afterwards, ‘ I never passed so happy a morning ; how delightful being together, and loving one another as we do.’ As the day further advanced, he said—‘ What a beautiful day this has been !’ My dear uncle and aunt Joseph Gurney came a little before dinner ; the Rev. W. Wilkinson of Norwich, the Rev. Charles Brereton, then clergyman of Earlham, Hannah Scarnell, who had lived as servant or retainer on the Gurney property for above fifty years, nurse Norman, and his own man, were our companions. Dr. Alderson called in the morning, and D. Dalrymple, each much affected ; he expressed himself so kindly to them ; he desired his love to Amelia Opie ; he enjoyed our dear sister Richenda singing hymns to him : he took leave of most of the old servants ; to one whom he used not much to like, he spoke the most kindly, said he was glad to see him, and shook him warmly by the hand, and bade him ‘ farewell !’ He appeared deeply impressed with his many blessings and the mercy shewn him. About half-an-hour after it was over, we had once more to approach the sacred footstool (for ability) to bless the Sacred Name, both for His giving and taking away. Thus closed such a day as I never passed. May we not say, ‘ blessed are the dead that die

in the Lord?' Oh, my beloved children and husband, may we not only feel, but profit by this striking event!"

Soon after Mrs. Fry's return from Earlham, a question was mooted which brought her into considerable perplexity. An unusual delay having occurred in the communications with two Friends travelling on the Continent on religious service, accident or illness was apprehended, and it was deemed expedient that some one should be sent to them. Mr. Fry was requested to undertake the mission, and proposed that his two daughters, with two of his elder nieces, should accompany him. Their mother yielded doubtingly, but the journey proved useful and agreeable, and she would never have regretted the permission she had not withheld, but for the pain occasioned her by the remarks and opinions of others. That such opinions had too much weight with her then, and throughout her singular career, often to her great perplexity and distress, cannot excite surprise, when the system of mutual surveillance and acknowledged oversight amongst Friends is considered.

Plashet, Eleventh Month, 2nd.—My beloved husband and girls returned from France on Second day; my heart was rather overwhelmed in receiving them again. I also have had to feel the spirit in which some persons have taken my allowing them to go, making what appeared to be unkind remarks. Oh! how do I see rocks on every hand! thus almost all persons who appear to pride themselves upon their consistency, are apt to judge, whilst others, who no doubt yield to temptations, greatly suffer,

and weaken themselves by it. How weak, how frail are we on every hand ! my heart was much overwhelmed, seeing that infirmities abound, and feeling my own.

Mrs. Fry was always very jealous over herself, lest her avocations as the head of a family should be neglected, from her time and attention being so greatly occupied by those duties, which she believed herself called to perform in the Church ; but she was even more alive to the danger of carrying on the business of life, in dependence upon her own strength and power. Her heart's prayer was—

“ Whate'er I do in any thing,
To do it as to Thee.”

In a letter to one of her sisters in Norfolk, on the subject of hiring a cook, she says—

“ My late letters savour much of the Martha, but whilst here, cooks appear a very important, if not a necessary part of our comfort, as our food must be dressed. I am, and have been for many weeks past, in my best health ; what a comfort is this, may I not be unmindful of it ; but how prone we are to cleave to the things of the earth, rather than in heart to cleave to a better spirit ! I sometimes feel like an earth-worm, though at times raised above it, which is an unmerited mercy ; but I find we may be employed in arranging laundries, kitchens, and such things, until our heart is too much in them. Does not it call for watchfulness, that even in the performance of our duties, however small, they become not a temptation, and we go not astray, lest the seed become choked, and no fruit brought to perfection ?”

It would not be true to say, that Mrs. Fry naturally cared much for outward appearance, or that she took pleasure in domestic concerns. She loved a simple liberality, and unostentatious comfort ; her element was hospitality, and whilst Christian moderation was observed, her taste was gratified by an open generous mode of living ; but she would not have chosen for her own pleasure, the oversight of either house or table ; and when in later life circumstances rendered care and economy a duty, it was a great relief to her to be able to depute the charge of household affairs to her eldest daughter. She was always most correct in account-keeping ; the distinct heads of house, garden, farm, charity, with many others, marked the pains-taking care with which she performed her self-imposed task. As the mistress of a family, if she erred, it was upon the side of indulgence ; scarcely liking to exert that power over the wills and feelings of others, which is so conducive to their good, and so infinitely in favour of those governed, as well as those in the more arduous position of governing others ; but she was aware of this herself, and “ a firm hand with a household ” was among the maxims she impressed upon her daughters as they advanced in life.

During the infancy of her children, she was singularly devoted to them, by night as well as day. She attended to their minutest ailments, and was distressed by their sufferings ; in health and happiness they refreshed her by their smiles. She had the gentlest touch with little children, literally and figuratively. She would win their hearts if they had never seen her before, almost at the first glance, and by the first sound of her musical voice.

As her children grew older, her love was undiminished, but her facility was less than before the sinfulness of the human heart had developed itself in positive evil ; this especially applies to the elder ones. She had not a talent for education, if that word be used for imparting knowledge, probably because her own had been interrupted and unfinished ; nor did she appreciate, till the experience of life had taught her, the necessity of exerting minute, continued, and personal influence over the minds of children.

One quality she eminently possessed ; enjoying the enjoyment of her children, she would stimulate them to healthful exercise and exertion, and take pleasure in their harmless feats of activity and strength. She had the English appreciation of good horsemanship, and cared that her sons should ride fearlessly and well. But Sunday was the golden day of the week. Their mother's very aspect bore the impress of the day. To her it was not alone "holy" but "honourable." After family reading and breakfast, a little walk in the garden was succeeded by a short reading with her children, suited to their age, or circumstances, "something pithy," as was her wont to call it. Then some of them in the carriage with her, others walking with their father, the party adjourned to the Friend's Meeting at Plaistow. She had a custom of bringing home to the Sunday's early dinner, any one she knew, to whom, from the length of distance to their own dwelling, from decayed circumstances, or feeble health, rest and indulgence were particularly acceptable.

One old lady was a frequent and favourite guest ; re-

duced almost to penury, she had taken refuge in a Friends' Alms-House near London. From time to time in summer weather, by starting at an unknown hour in the morning, she reached Plaistow for Meeting at eleven o'clock. Lydia Masham depended upon her welcome at Plashet, nor did it ever fail her. Her gown of drab camlet, her shawl and mittens of drab cotton, and a little black mode bonnet surmounting her withered features, was a pleasant sight on arriving at the Meeting House. The Meeting ended, she was carefully planted in a corner of the carriage, and carried off to dinner at Plashet. On Sunday there were no school-room distinctions, the early dinner included all, even the nursery furnished every child who could feed itself. Then came a pause and resting time, followed by the afternoon Meeting. The evenings in summer were generally passed in the gardens, in winter around the bright fire-side, and the day concluded with repeating hymns and portions of scripture.

Mrs. Fry had known many trials during the two preceding years, but now an acute sorrow, and unlike any which she had hitherto experienced, awaited her. The death of one of her children, Elizabeth, the seventh child, nearly five years of age. She was lovely, and of much promise; with her mother's name she possessed much of her nature, and more of her general appearance, effect and manner, than any of her other children. Her disposition was tender and affectionate, but like her mother's in early life, inclined to resist authority, though amenable to gentleness and love. The seeds of piety had appeared to take strong root in her heart, and she de-

lighted in religious instruction adapted to her tender years.

Her illness was short, scarcely one week, and her suffering slight. Apprehension was only beginning to be felt, before the messenger was at the door. A few hours' unconsciousness followed, and the scene closed. She had been carried into her mother's room the day before, and had become too ill to leave it. Her parents, the greater part of the last day, sat over her, her mother's countenance betraying the emotions within; exquisite pain, even anguish was depicted there, and yet there was a calmness, an expression of unshaken confidence which prevailed over all. When the last sigh had been breathed, perfect stillness reigned in the chamber of death. It was broken by the thrilling voice of her mother, as she uttered the deep thankfulness of her heart. She had besought from Him who heareth prayer, that if consistent with His holy will, her little one might in mercy be spared suffering. Her prayer had been granted. Pain could not reach her now. For this her soul overflowed with gratitude; but infinitely beyond this, was her thanksgiving, that sin could no more "have dominion over her," that her child had "entered through the pearl gates into the city," and was for ever with her Lord.

Plasnet, Eleventh Month.—It has pleased Almighty and Infinite Wisdom, to take from us our most dear and tenderly-beloved child, little Betsey—between four and five years old. In receiving her, as well as giving her back again, we have, I believe, been enabled to bless the Sacred Name. She was a very precious child, of much wisdom for her years, and I can hardly help believing,

much grace ; liable to the frailty of childhood, at times she would differ with the little ones, and rather loved her own way ; but she was very easy to lead, though not one to be driven. She had most tender affections, a good understanding, for her years, a remarkably staid and solid mind. Her love very strong, and her little attentions great to those she loved, and remarkable in her kindness to servants, poor people, and all animals ; she had much feeling for them ; but what was more, the bent of her mind was remarkably towards serious things. It was a subject she loved to dwell upon ; she would often talk of " Almighty," and almost every thing that had connexion with Him. On Third day, the 21st, after some suffering of body from great sickness, she appeared wonderfully relieved, and, I may say, raised in spirit ; she began by telling me how many hymns and stories she knew, with her countenance greatly animated, a flush on her cheeks, and her eyes very bright, a smile of inexpressible content, almost joy : I think she first said with a powerful voice,

" How glorious is our Heavenly King
Who reigns above the sky."

And then expressed how beautiful it was, and how the little children that die stand before Him, but she did not remember all the words of the hymn, nor could I help her ; she then mentioned other hymns, and many sweet things ; she spoke with delight of how she could nurse the little ones and take care of them, etc., her heart appeared inexpressibly to overflow with love. Afterwards she told me one or two droll stories, and made clear and bright comments as she went along ; then stopped a

little while and said (as in the fulness of her heart, and the joy of a little innocent child who feels very good, for she indeed appeared under the influence of her Redeemer) "Mamma, I love every body better than myself, and I love thee better than every body, and I love Almighty much better than thee, and I hope thee loves Almighty much better than me." I believe my answer was, "I hope, or believe I do," which she took up and said, "I hope thee does; if not, thee are wicked." Afterwards I appeared to satisfy her that it was so. This was expressed on the Third day morning, and she was a corpse on the Fifth day evening; but in her death, there was abundant cause for thanksgiving; prayer appeared indeed to be answered, as very little, if any, suffering seemed to attend her, and no struggle at last; but her breath grew more and more seldom and gentle, till she ceased to breathe. During the day, being from time to time strengthened in prayer, in heart, and in word, I found myself only led to ask for her, that she might be for ever with her God, whether she remained much longer in time or not; but that if it pleased Infinite Wisdom her sufferings might be mitigated, and as far as it was needful for her to suffer, that she might be sustained. This was marvellously answered beyond anything we could expect, from the nature of the complaint; which the doctors thought would terminate in water in the head. I desire never to forget this favour, but if it pleases Infinite Wisdom, to be preserved from repining, or unduly giving way to lamentation, for losing so sweet, so kind a child; for her little attentions were great, and her love strong to her father, to me, and to all near to

her. I have been permitted to feel inexpressible pangs at her loss, though at first it was so much like partaking with her in joy and glory, that I could not mourn if I would ; only rejoice, almost with joy unspeakable and full of glory. But a very deep baptism was afterwards permitted me, like the enemy coming in as a flood ; but even here way for escape has been made, and my supplication answered, the healing virtue at times much felt, the bitter cup sweetened, but at others (I doubt not permitted in mercy) my loss has touched me in a manner almost inexpressible ; to awake, and find my much and so tenderly-beloved little girl so totally fled from my view, so many pleasant pictures marred. As far as I am concerned, I view it as a separation from a sweet source of comfort and enjoyment, but surely not a real evil. Abundant comforts are left me, if it please my kind and Heavenly Father to give me power to enjoy them, and continually in heart to return Him thanks on account of His unutterable loving kindness to my tenderly-beloved little one, who had so sweet and easy a life, and so tranquil a death ; and that in her young and tender years, her heart had been animated with love and desires after Himself, and also that, for our sakes, she should so often have expressed it in her childish innocent way. My much-loved husband and I have drunk this cup together, in close sympathy and unity of feeling. It has, at times, been very bitter to us both, but as an outward alleviation, we have, I believe, been in measure each other's joy, and helpers in the Lord. The sweet children have also tenderly sympathised ; brothers, sisters, servants, and friends, have been very near and dear in

shewing their kindness, not only to the darling child, but to me, and to us all. My dear sister Richenda being here, I have looked upon almost as providential. Sarah Tatum's* presence, a particular comfort to my poor lamb. So we find, outwardly and inwardly, the "Lord doth provide."

Extract from a letter of Richenda Gurney's, afterwards Mrs. Francis Cunningham, to her sister Rachel at Rome, dated Plashet, November 26th :—

"I never witnessed stronger faith, more submission, more evidences of the power of grace in any one, than in our beloved sister at that time ; I felt it a mercy to be a humble sharer in the rich portion granted her in this hour of need ; never was I more impressed with the blessedness which is experienced by those who have served the Lord Jesus, who have preferred Him above all things, who have been willing to take up their daily cross to follow Him. He is not a hard Master ; He never leaves nor forsakes His own, and will show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are perfect towards Him. After a few minutes, we retired with our dear sister into the next room. She was desirous that children and servants (especially the nurses) and all her friends who had been present, should come to her ; when thus surrounded, as she lay on the sofa, she poured out her heart in thanksgiving and prayer, in a manner deeply affecting and edifying. For myself, I felt it highly valuable, and would not but have been there for a

* A valued nurse, who had just left the family to live with her widowed father, but came back to assist during the time of affliction.

great deal. Whilst memory lasts, I think and hope I never shall forget the scene, or the impression it made."

Plasbet, Eleventh Month, 27th.—Man is not to live by bread alone, but by every word of God. It appears now my case, in my deep sorrow, I am not, indeed, to live by bread alone, but to be nourished, and kept alive by that inward powerful word, that cometh from God, and by every word being renewed in the needful time, I feel no other sure source of consolation. Abundant mercy has indeed been shown me, my weaknesses met, and my prayers answered, even about smaller things, and although it pleases my Heavenly Father thus to chastise me, yet I am permitted to feel that He doth love those whom He chasteneth. I feel His love very near, and like a tender parent, that may see right to inflict the rod, rather, perhaps, than spoil the child, yet the same hand administers the salve to the wound, and cherishes the more tenderly after it, making manifest to His poor child that although a deep wound, it is sent in mercy, and to the unspeakable gain of one most tenderly beloved. She being taken from the conflicts of time, and (I humbly trust) permitted an entrance into the enduring joys of eternity; and that, through the blood and power of her Redeemer, she has been washed and made clean. Though from her tender years, and good and innocent spirit, we believed her remarkably ready, still I saw and felt need of a Saviour, even for such a little child; for of course, she had some childish transgressions, or little deviations, but I believe that they were all washed away, and that indeed reconciliation

was obtained, as far as there ever had been any separation. So I cannot help hoping that she was ripe for glory.

28th.—Dearest Lord, be pleased to arise a little in Thy own power, for the help of thy poor unworthy servant and handmaid ; and if consistent with Thy holy will, to dispel some of her distressing feelings, and make her willing to part with and commit to the earth her beloved child's body, and once more to grant an evidence that her soul is at rest with Thee in heaven, and that this awful trying occasion of her funeral, may, in the end, be like balm to the wound.

30th.—Once more my supplications were answered—the bitter conflict that I was permitted to feel during the night, and the morning previous to the funeral of my beloved child, was in the needful time mitigated, and strength granted to give up her remains to the grave, I hope without a murmur. But although faith tells us that the spirit is indeed fled from its earthly house, yet the distress felt in parting with the body, I can hardly describe ; for the bodies of little children, their innocent and beautiful faces and forms, we are prone to delight in ; and there is a sort of personal attachment towards them, that partakes of the nature of animal life, which I believe is hardly to be described, but only fully known to parents. This perhaps makes us cling more even to the poor body—which I felt certainly wonderfully vacant after its blessed inhabitant was fled ; yet partly perhaps from nervous weakness, my remaining love to the body, its sweet looks, and some thinking we might keep it longer ; also feeling that the last relics of

my much loved, kind, and to me beautiful lamb, were then about to leave us here for ever, was a pinch to the natural part not to be told: I felt really ill. But I may indeed return thanks unto Him who has "given us the victory," through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This I have been permitted to feel, for my child's death at the time had lost its sting, and the grave its victory; and my soul was upheld in the needful time, though my dread had been so great. I was enabled to pray for help before I left the house, and also to return thanks at the grave for the tender mercy shown to her, and to me, and to all; and afterwards, in the room at the Meeting-House, to encourage others to serve the Most High, seeing how great was His loving kindness and tender mercy; and that the uncertainty of time called for standing prepared. This morning, my poor soul has felt refreshed, in once more being enabled, before my household, to cast my care upon my Holy Helper, and to pray for fresh ability in performing the duties of life, and indeed that this event might be sanctified to us all.

Marvellous as is the power of vital religion to support under affliction, it deadens not natural feeling; changing the character of sorrow, it subdues the resistful heart, and allays the bitter irritation so frequently engendered by it, but the suffering remains the same. Elizabeth Fry could not pass unscathed through tribulation such as this. Her winter was one of frequent depression and much bodily infirmity, nor did she rally till after the birth of her tenth child, the following April.

Fourth Month, 27th.—Thanks, I may say, be unto my God who has proved Himself an all-sufficient

Helper. A heavy cloud passed over—but fears now arise for my spiritual preservation ; and my desire is great in word and in deed, to be enabled to testify of the gracious goodness of my Holy Helper. Family cares also come upon me, which my great weakness hardly knows how to encounter. The remembrance of my little Betsey has been very present with me by night and by day. Be Thou pleased, O Lord God Almighty ! yet to look down upon us, and bless us, and if Thou seest meet, to bless our loved infant, to visit it by Thy grace, and Thy love, that it may be Thine in time, and Thine to all eternity ; we desire to thank Thee for the precious gift. I have also had a fresh trial in the dangerous illness of my beloved brother, Daniel, since his return from the Continent.

In June, her children went to Pakefield, for the benefit of sea air, where they were under the care of their aunt, Mrs. Francis Cunningham. Their parents followed them, and for a short period remained with them. It was a new position for her, to be the guest of an active devoted clergyman, and that clergyman her brother-in-law. She remained some weeks in Norfolk, and at last returned without her four elder children. Mr. and Mrs. Fry had determined upon passing the ensuing winter in London.

This letter to her two eldest daughters, Katharine and Rachel, was written after her almost solitary return to Plashet.

“ Plashet, Ninth Month, 1816, Evening.

“ MY DEAREST GIRLS,

“ After drinking tea alone in your father’s little

dressing-room, and taking a solitary walk, and sitting in the rustic portico at the end of the green walk, I am come to write to you, as I cannot have your company. Only think ! this evening I have neither husband nor child to speak to, little Hannah having gone to tea at the Cottage. I found it even pleasant to go and stand by poor old Isaac the horse and the cows and sheep in the field, that I might see some living thing to enliven poor Plashet. The grounds look sweetly, but the cherry-tree by the dining-room window is cut down, which I think quite a loss. The poor little school children, when I see them, look very smiling at me, and I suppose fancy that they will soon see you home. Poor Jones's little boy is still living ; such an object of skin and bone I have hardly ever seen. I fear she is greatly distressed. Our house looks charmingly, as far I think as a house can—so clean, neat, and lively—but it wants its inhabitants very much.

“ Your most nearly attached mother,

“ E. F.

Early in December Mrs. Fry went into Norfolk, in consequence of heavy affliction befalling the family of her uncle, Joseph Gurney, in the death of Joseph, his only surviving son. She staid at Earlham, where her two eldest boys under the care of their aunts, were pursuing their education with the clergyman of the village. She then visited her brother, Daniel Gurney, at North Runcton, with whom her daughters were residing. She appreciated to the full the advantages enjoyed by her children, but foresaw with anxiety

the probable effects of their circumstances, and of the influences they were under. At that time it was, however, wholly out of her power to make any other arrangements, and she could only commit their future to the unerring wisdom and love of her heavenly Father.

CHAPTER VII.

EXTRACT FROM CRABBE'S POEMS—GENERAL STATE OF PRISONS—
SCHOOL IN NEWGATE—NEWGATE ASSOCIATION—DESCRIPTION FROM
BUXTON—LETTER TO HER DAUGHTERS—MARRIAGE OF HER
BROTHER, JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY—WINTER IN LONDON—EXAMI-
NATIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

One, I beheld ! a wife, a mother, go
To gloomy scenes of wickedness and woe ;
She sought her way through all things vile and base
And made a prison a religious place :
Fighting her way—the way that angels fight
With powers of darkness—to let in the light.
Tell me, my heart, hast thou such victory won,
As this, a sinner of thy sex, hast done,
And calls herself a sinner ! what art thou ?
And where thy praise and exaltation now ?
Yet, she is tender, delicate, and nice,
And shrinks from all depravity and vice ;
Shrinks from the ruffian gaze, the savage gloom,
That reign where guilt and misery find a home ;
Guilt chained, and misery purchased, and with them
All we abhor, abominate, condemn—
The look of scorn, the scowl, th' insulting leer,
Of shame, all fixed on her who ventures here,
Yet all she braved ; she kept her stedfast eye
On the dear cause, and brushed the baseness by.—
So would a mother press her darling child
Close to her breast, with tainted rags defiled.*

*. The Maid's Story (Tales of the Hall) by the Rev. George Crabbe.

These lines, written by Mr. Crabbe in allusion to Mrs. Fry, show that although his acquaintance with her was slight, his deep reading of the human heart enabled him to appreciate her undertakings, and the personal sacrifices at which they were made.

Mildred's Court, Second Month, 24th.—I have lately been much occupied in forming a school in Newgate, for the children of the poor prisoners, as well as the young criminals, which has brought much peace and satisfaction with it ; but my mind has also been deeply affected in attending a poor woman who was executed this morning. I visited her twice ; this event has brought me into much feeling, attended by some distressingly nervous sensations in the night, so that this has been a time of deep humiliation to me, thus witnessing the effect and consequences of sin. This poor creature murdered her baby ; and how inexpressibly awful now to have her life taken away ! The whole affair has been truly afflicting to me ; to see what poor mortals may be driven to, through sin and transgression, and how hard the heart becomes, even to the most tender affections. How should we watch and pray, that we fall not by little and little, become hardened, and commit greater sins. I had to pray for these poor sinners this morning, and also for the preservation of our household from the evil there is in the world.

The disgraceful state in which many of the prisons of the British Empire were found thirty years ago, excites our astonishment, and we naturally seek to account for the continuance of so crying an evil.

That the sceptical philosophy which prevailed towards

the end of the last century, was unfavourable to questions of moral and religious reform, we cannot doubt. Whether the startling events of the French Revolution—the tremendous wars that followed it—the rise and fall of empires—had so engrossed the attention and drained the resources of the English nation, that improvement at home was neglected ; or whether looking to a still deeper source, it may be attributed to that tendency to degenerate inherent in all human institutions, the fact is indisputable. Howard and his humane exertions appear to have been forgotten, and Acts of Parliament to have become a dead letter ; some, if not all the provisions of those acts, being in the vast majority of gaols, openly violated. For Counties, as well as Boroughs, an old gate-house, or the ancient feudal castle, with its dungeons, its damp, close, and narrow cells, and its windows overlooking the street, often formed the common prison for offenders of either sex, and of all grades of crime. The danger of escape was provided against, by heavy irons and fetters. Dirt and disease abounded : and even where the building contained wards and yards, the women were imperfectly separated from the men ; whilst idleness, gambling, drinking, and swearing, were habitual amongst them. These evils were magnified by the crowded state of the prisons ; for crime had enormously increased, and convictions more than doubled within the ten preceding years. Of the prisons for the counties, those of Bury, Ilchester, Gloucester, with a few others formed honourable exceptions to the general rule ; and in the Metropolis, the Penitentiary at Millbank, which had been recently erected.

The moral contamination produced by the disorderly

state of prisons, was beginning to be perceived, and the necessity for stricter discipline and better regulations to be acknowledged.

In the United States of America, and in a few instances on the Continent of Europe, the experiment had been tried, and with such success as to establish the principle, that classification, employment and instruction tended to the reformation of the criminal, and to the decrease of crime. A deputation of the Gaol Committee of the Corporation of London was appointed in 1815, to visit several gaols in England, especially that of Gloucester, with a view to the amelioration of those under their own jurisdiction. From this resulted some improvements in Newgate. The women from that time occupied the whole of the quadrangle, now called the "women's side;" including what were formerly the state apartments; mats were provided for them to sleep on. Double gratings, with a space between, were placed to prevent close communication with their visitors, who were of both sexes, and many of them as vile and desperate as themselves, although to overcome the difficulty thus presented, in receiving the contributions of those whose curiosity brought them to the spot, wooden spoons fastened to long sticks were contrived by the prisoners, and thrust across the intervening space. Notwithstanding these improvements, they remained in an unchecked condition of idleness, riot, and vice of every description. They were of the lowest sort—the very scum both of the town and country—filthy in their persons, disgusting in their habits, and ignorant not only of religious truth but of the most familiar duties of common life.

At the suggestion of her brother-in-law, the late Mr. Hoare, Mrs. Fry had, in the interval between 1813 and 1816, accompanied him on a visit to the women in Cold Bath Fields House of Correction, whose neglected state had much impressed him. Mr. Hoare, with another of her brothers-in-law, the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton, and some of her personal friends, were at this time occupied in forming a society for the reformation of the juvenile depredators, who infested London, in gangs. This object led them into different prisons, where their attention was soon attracted to the subject of prison discipline. Although not originating in this cause, it may be presumed, that the conversation and influence of these gentlemen would tend to keep alive in the mind of Mrs. Fry, the interest awakened in 1813 for the female prisoners in Newgate. As in that instance, so at this time, her journal fails to convey any explicit information respecting her visits there. We are indebted to other sources, for the fact, that they were recommenced about Christmas, 1816.

On her second visit, she was, at her own request, left alone amongst the women for some hours ; and on that occasion she read to them the parable of the Lord of the Vineyard, in the 20th chapter of St. Matthew, and made a few observations on the eleventh hour, and on Christ having come to save sinners, even those who might be said to have wasted the greater part of their lives, estranged from Him. Some asked who Christ was ; others feared that their day of salvation was passed.

Their children, who were almost naked, were pining for want of proper food, air, and exercise. Mrs. Fry, on

this occasion, particularly addressed herself to the mothers, and pointed out to them the grievous consequences to their children, of living in such a scene of depravity ; she proposed to establish a school for them, to which they acceded with tears of joy. She desired them to consider the plan, for without their steady co-operation she would not undertake it ; leaving it to them to select a governess from amongst themselves. On her next visit, they had chosen as schoolmistress a young woman, named Mary Connor, recently committed for stealing a watch. She proved eminently qualified for the task, and became one of the first-fruits of Christian labour in that place ; she was assiduous in her duties, and was never known to infringe one of the rules. A free pardon was granted her about fifteen months afterwards ; but it was an unavailing gift, for a cough, which had attacked her a short time before, ended in consumption. She displayed during her illness much patience and quietness of spirit ; and having, as she humbly believed, obtained everlasting pardon and peace, through the merits of her Lord and Saviour, in this hope, " full of immortality," she died.

Mrs. Fry's views were received with cordial approbation by the Sheriffs of London, the Ordinary, and the Governor of Newgate ; although they looked upon the experiment as almost hopeless. An unoccupied cell was, by their permission, appropriated for the school-room. On the day following this arrangement, Mrs. Fry, accompanied by her friend, Mary Sanderson, and with the poor prisoner, Mary Connor, as mistress, opened the school for the children and young persons under twenty-five years of age ; but from the small size of the room,

they had the pain of being obliged to refuse admission to many of the women, who earnestly entreated to be allowed to share in their instructions. Mary Sanderson then visited a prison for the first time, and her feelings were thus described by herself to Sir T. F. Buxton :—

“ The railing was crowded with half-naked women, struggling together for the front situations with the most boisterous violence, and begging with the utmost vociferation. She felt as if she were going into a den of wild beasts, and she well recollects quite shuddering when the door closed upon her, and she was locked in with such a herd of novel and desperate companions.”

Something similar must have been the effect on that faithful coadjutor in this work, Elizabeth Pryor, at rather a later period, upon seeing the women, “ squalid in attire and ferocious in countenance, seated about the yard.” From the prison door one issued, “ yelling like a wild beast ;” she rushed round the area, with her arm extended, tearing everything of the nature of a cap from the heads of the other women. The sequel too is important ; for this very woman, through the grace and mercy of God, became humanized under the instruction of the ladies. After having obtained her liberty, she married ; and for years came occasionally to see Mrs. Pryor, who considered her a well-conducted person, her appearance being always most respectable.

A few other ladies gradually united themselves to those already engaged in the work, and the little school in the cell of Newgate, continued for many weeks their daily occupation.

“ It was in our visits to the school, where some of us

attended almost every day, that we were witnesses to the dreadful proceedings that went forward on the female side of the prison ; the begging, swearing, gaming, fighting, singing, dancing, dressing up in men's clothes ; scenes too bad to be described, so that we did not think it suitable to admit young persons with us.*

The ladies thought some of the existing evils could be remedied by proper regulations ; but in the commencement of the undertaking, the reformation of the women, sunk as they were in every species of depravity, was scarcely thought of, much less anticipated. By degrees, however, the heroic little band became convinced that good might be effected even amongst these, for intercourse with the prisoners had inspired them with confidence. The poor women were earnest in their entreaties not to be excluded from the benefits, which they began to perceive would result to themselves, from improved habits. But whilst thus encouraged on the one side, every sort of discouragement presented itself on the other. The officers of the prison, as well as the private friends of these ladies, treated the idea of introducing industry and order into Newgate, as visionary. Even some the most interested in the attempt apprehended that it would fail from the character of those for whose good it was intended, from the unfavourable locality in the midst of a great metropolis, and from the difficulty of obtaining a sufficiency of labourers for such a work. It was also urged that even if employment could be procured, the necessary materials for work

* Mrs. Fry's evidence before the House of Commons.

would be destroyed or stolen. In recalling this period, one of those engaged in it thus writes : " But amidst these discouraging views, our benevolent friend evinced that her heart was fixed ; and trusting in the Lord, she commenced her work of faith, and labour of love."

Fourth Month, 12th.—I have found in my late attention to Newgate, a peace and prosperity in the undertaking, that I seldom, if ever, remember to have done before. A way has very remarkably been opened for us, beyond all expectations, to bring into order the poor prisoners ; those who are in power are so very willing to help us, in short, the time appears come to work amongst them. Already, from being like wild beasts, they appear harmless and kind. I am ready to say, in the fulness of my heart, surely " it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes ;" so many are the providential openings of various kinds. Oh ! if good should result, may the praise and glory of the whole, be entirely given where it is due by us, and by all, in deep humiliation and prostration of spirit.

In the month of April, 1817, the wife of a clergyman, and eleven members of the Society of Friends, formed themselves into " An Association for the Improvement of the Female Prisoners in Newgate." The object they had in view is stated to have been, " To provide for the clothing, the instruction, and the employment of the women ; to introduce them to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and to form in them, as much as possible, those habits of order, sobriety and industry, which may render them docile and peaceable whilst in prison, and respectable when they leave it." On comparing these

intentions with the existing state of things, it is easy to believe that the scheme was viewed by those in authority as highly desirable, but almost impracticable. Still to their honour be it spoken, they promised and gave their warmest co-operation.

The concurrence of the sheriffs and city magistrates was asked and obtained. But the doubt still remained, how far the women would submit to the restraints, which it would be needful to impose upon them, in order to effect this change. To ascertain this, the sheriffs met the ladies one Sunday afternoon at Newgate; the women were assembled, and in their presence, as well as that of the ordinary and governor, they were asked by Mrs. Fry, whether they were willing to abide by the rules, which it would be indispensable to establish amongst them, for the accomplishment of the object so much desired by them all. The women, fully and unanimously, assured her of their determination to obey them strictly. The sheriffs also addressed them, giving the plan the countenance of their approbation; and then turning to Mrs. Fry and her companions, one of them said, "Well, ladies, you see your materials."

The remainder of the history will be better told in the words of Sir T. F. Buxton. It is true that his description of the early labours of the Ladies' Newgate Association has been repeatedly before the public;* but there will probably be some into whose hands this book

* An Inquiry whether Crime and Misery are produced or prevented by our present System of Prison Discipline. Third Edition, 1818, page 109.

may fall, who may not have perused it, and others, from whose memory it may have passed.

“ Having succeeded so far, the next business was to provide employment. It struck one of the ladies, that Botany Bay might be supplied with stockings, and indeed, all articles of clothing of the prisoners’ manufacture. She therefore called upon Messrs. Richard Dixon and Co., of Fenchurch Street, and candidly told them, that she was desirous of depriving them of this branch of their trade, and stating her views, begged their advice. They said at once, that they should not in any way obstruct such laudable designs, and that no further trouble need be taken to provide work, for they would engage to do it. Nothing now remained but to prepare the room ; and this difficulty was obviated by the sheriffs sending their carpenters. The former laundry speedily underwent the necessary alterations, was cleaned and white-washed, and in a very few days, the Ladies’ Committee assembled in it all the tried female prisoners. One of the ladies, Mrs. Fry, began by describing to them the comforts to be derived from industry and sobriety, the pleasure and profit of doing right ; and contrasted the happiness and peace of those who are dedicated to a course of virtue and religion, with that experienced in their former life, and its present consequences ; and describing their awful guilt in the sight of God, appealed to themselves, whether its wages, even here, were not utter misery and ruin. She then dwelt upon the motives which had brought the ladies into Newgate ; they had left their homes and their families, to mingle amongst those from whom all others fled ;

animated by an ardent and affectionate desire to rescue their fellow-creatures from evil, and to impart to them that knowledge, which they, from their education and circumstances, had been so happy as to receive.

“ She then told them, that the ladies did not come with any absolute and authoritative pretensions ; that it was not intended they should command, and the prisoners obey, but that it was to be understood, all were to act in concert ; that not a rule should be made, or a monitor appointed, without their full and unanimous concurrence ; that for this purpose, each of the rules should be read and put to the vote ; and she invited those who might feel any disinclination to any particular, freely to state their opinion. The following were then read :—

RULES.

“ 1. That a matron be appointed for the general superintendence of the women.

“ 2. That the women be engaged in needlework, knitting, or any other suitable employment.

“ 3. That there be no begging, swearing, gaming, card-playing, quarrelling, or immoral conversation. That all novels, plays, and other improper books, be excluded ; and that all bad words be avoided ; and any default in these particulars be reported to the matron.

“ 4. That there be a yard-keeper, chosen from among the women, to inform them when their friends came ; to see that they leave their work with a monitor, when they go to the grating, and that they do not spend any time there, except with their friends. If any woman be

found disobedient, in these respects, the yard-keeper is to report the case to the matron.

“ 5. That the women be divided into classes, of not more than twelve ; and that a monitor be appointed to each class.

“ 6. That monitors be chosen from amongst the most orderly of the women that can read, to superintend the work and conduct of the others.

“ 7. That the monitors not only overlook the women in their own classes, but if they observe any others disobeying the rules, that they inform the monitor of the class to which such persons may belong, who is immediately to repeat to the matron, and the deviations to be set down on a slate.

“ 8. That any monitor breaking the rules, shall be dismissed from her office, and the most suitable in the class selected to take her place.

“ 9. That the monitors be particularly careful to see that the women come with clean hands and face to their work, and that they are quiet during their employment.

“ 10. That at the ringing of the bell, at nine o'clock in the morning, the women collect in the work-room to hear a portion of Scripture read by one of the visitors, or the matron ; and that the monitors afterwards conduct the classes from thence to their respective wards in an orderly manner.

“ 11. That the women be again collected for reading, at six o'clock in the evening, when the work shall be given in charge to the matron by the monitors.

“ 12. That the matron keep an exact account of the work done by the women, and of their conduct.

“ And as each was proposed, every hand was held up in token of their approbation. In the same manner and with the same formalities, each of the monitors was proposed, and all were unanimously approved. When this business was concluded, one of the visitors read aloud the twenty-first chapter of St. Matthew, the parable of the barren fig tree, seeming applicable to the state of the audience ; after a period of silence, according to the custom of the Society of Friends, the monitors, with their classes, withdrew to their respective wards in the most orderly manner. During the first month, the ladies were anxious that the attempt should be secret, that it might meet with no interruption ; at the end of that time, as the experiment had been tried, and had exceeded even their expectations, it was deemed expedient to apply to the Corporation of London. It was considered that the school would be more permanent, if it were made a part of the prison system of the City, than if it merely depended on individuals. In consequence, a short letter, descriptive of the progress already made, was written to the sheriffs.

“ The next day, an answer was received, proposing a meeting with the ladies at Newgate.

“ In compliance with this appointment, the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and several of the Aldermen attended. The prisoners were assembled together ; and it being requested that no alteration in their usual practice might take place, one of the ladies read a chapter in the Bible, and then the females proceeded to their various avocations. Their attention, during the time of reading, their orderly and sober deportment, their decent dress,

the absence of everything like tumult, noise, or contention, the obedience and respect shewn by them, and the cheerfulness visible in their countenance and manners, conspired to excite the astonishment and admiration of their visitors. Many of these knew Newgate, had visited it a few months before, and had not forgotten the painful impressions made by a scene, exhibiting, perhaps, the very utmost limits of misery and guilt.

“The magistrates, to evince their sense of the importance of the alterations which had been effected, immediately adopted the whole plan as a part of the system of Newgate, empowered the ladies to punish the refractory by short confinement, undertook part of the expence of the matron, and loaded the ladies with thanks and benedictions.

“About six months after the establishment of the school for the children, and the manufactory for the tried side, the committee received a most urgent petition from the untried, entreating that the same might be done among them, and promising strict obedience. In consequence, the ladies made the same arrangements, proposed the same rules, and admitted in the same manner as on the other side, the prisoners to participate in their arrangements. The experiment has here answered, but not to the same extent. They have had difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of work; the prisoners are not so disposed to work, flattering themselves with the prospect of speedy release; besides, they are necessarily engaged, in some degree, in preparation for their trial. The result of the observations of the ladies has been, that where the prisoners, from whatever cause, did no work, they de-

rived little, if any, moral advantage; where they did some work, they received some benefit, and where they were fully engaged, they were really and essentially improved."

Encouraged by many concurring circumstances, the newly-formed Ladies' Committee, now, for the first time, introduced a matron into Newgate; the prisoners were divided into classes, and placed under her superintendence. She was eventually paid in part by the Corporation, and received, in addition, twenty pounds a-year from the funds of the Ladies' Association. They furnished the rooms appropriated to her, and she was regarded as their servant. The yards-woman was also appointed and paid by them.

Previous to the appointment of the matron, and until she was thoroughly established in her office, some of the ladies spent the whole day in the prison amongst the women, taking something to eat in a basket, or remaining without any thing; and, for a long time afterwards, one or two of them never failed to spend some hours daily in this important field of labour.

The different arrangements of the ladies with the purchase of clothing for the prisoners, entailed expences, which proved beyond their private resources; a subscription was therefore opened, to which the Sheriffs gave the sum of eighty pounds. Mrs. Fry, at an after period, related to one of her coadjutors, that at this time she applied to some of her own relations for assistance in this object, for she perceived the work before her to be great, and the opening for usefulness beyond her expectation, but that to follow it up, she required the com-

mand of more money than she could conscientiously ask from her husband. Her application was most cordially responded to by them, especially by her cousin, Hudson Gurney, and her uncle Robert Barclay; they gave her help, and encouraged her to persevere in her important objects, desiring her to apply freely to them whenever their assistance was required. But far beyond any other assistance was that she received from her own brothers, who not only entered warmly into her objects of interest, but were unfailing in the generous support they afforded them. From that time, until her labours of love were ended upon earth, not one year elapsed in which they did not most liberally contribute, as occasion required, to her various purposes of benevolence, leaving the division to her own judgment. Thus did He, who had called her to this work, open the hearts of persons in various circumstances, each to contribute of that which he had, some in personal exertion, and cheerful consecration of time and strength, some the countenance of their authority and official dignity, whilst others poured in the needful supply of silver and gold. Such had been Elizabeth Fry's work for the winter. She had returned to Plashet, and was preparing once more to gather all her children round her in that loved and happy home, when she thus wrote to her eldest daughters, who were still in Norfolk.

*“ Plashet, Third Day Evening,
(Post mark) 11 June, 1817.*

“ MY DEAREST GIRLS,

“ We have been daily watching with some anxiety for a letter, to say, when we were to expect

you and your dear aunt, for our hearts are not a little set upon seeing you again ; indeed, we long to have you all once more around us. We are a little like children at school, counting the days till the holidays. But I thought it might be well to remind you before your return, of a few needful things. You are, indeed, on your way to a sweet and happy home. But such is now your situation there, that you must, my loved girls, industriously do your part ; you are young, but under present circumstances, you must be *very* industrious, very persevering, you must rise early ; remember there is no governess. Then I shall expect of you diligence in your own education, and in some other things, I may want you to do ; we must, none of us, be idle ; and as you are now come to an age of some understanding, I hope to find you real helpers, and at times rejoice in this hope. My dear children, remember if you wish to be real helpers to me, and to your dear father, you must take heed to yourselves, and seek to keep your eye single to Him, who can alone enable you to do your duty towards yourselves or towards us ; for I am more and more convinced, that unless what we do, is done heartily “unto the Lord,” it profiteth little, and availeth nothing. I cannot tell you, for I have not language to express it, the longing that I have, that you, my sweet dear children, may go on in the right way. How far before all other things do I ask it for you—that whilst here, you may be “guided by His counsel, and afterwards received into glory.” I may tell you, that your home prospect is very bright, your little room, school-room, and bed-room, all to yourselves ; you must set a

sweet example amongst the others, for this is exceedingly important. We hope this week will not pass without seeing you. My very dear love to your uncles and aunts.

“Your’s very dearly, ELIZABETH FRY.”

A year had elapsed since her daughters had left Plashet, the greater part of which time they had been the guests of their uncle Daniel Gurney, at North Runciton, under the maternal care of their aunt Rachel. It was joy to be at home again ; but home was altered ; the nursery party was changed and scattered ; the brothers were gone to school ; their mother’s mind and time were greatly occupied. Life had to them been play before, but now it had become earnest.

Sixth Month, 28th.—I am alone at home with my nine children, a great and very precious charge ; at times they appear too much for me, at others I greatly enjoy them ; I desire that the anxiety for their welfare, and to have them in order, should not prevent my enjoying thankfully, the blessing of being surrounded by so sweet a flock. I sometimes think of these words, “The fruit of the womb is His reward ;” and having borne them through much fear, and at times much tribulation, I believe I should thankfully enjoy them ; not improperly resting in the precious gift. How I delight to see the springings of goodness in them, the blessed seed appearing, as well as mourn when the evil shows itself. Most gracious Lord, be pleased to be with them and bless them ; strengthen the good, I beseech Thee, and weaken the evil in their hearts !

In September Mrs. Fry travelled into Norfolk to be present at the marriage of her brother, Joseph John Gurney.

Plashet, Ninth Month, 19th.—I returned from attending my dearest brother Joseph's wedding, with Jane Birkbeck, yesterday ; they were married on the 10th ; a meeting very conspicuously owned by the great and good Shepherd of Israel, so that we could but look upon it as a token for good ; the ministry flowed ; but the immediate visitation of Divine love was a still better thing. My brother said a few words in supplication to my great comfort and refreshment, not doubting but that the Holy anointing was poured upon him ; therefore I believe that he will be a great instrument in his Heavenly Father's hand, if he only keep very near to His guidance in heights and in depths ; but I could *naturally* feel fears for his very sensitive and tender mind—the conflicts necessary for the service are so great and deep. His dear wife I believe will prove a true helper to him. I saw them afterwards settled at Earlham.

With the winter came the return to London, this time accompanied by her daughters, as well as the nursery party.

Mildred's Court, Twelfth Month, 17th.—A remarkable blessing still appears to accompany my prison concerns ; perhaps the greatest apparent blessing on my deeds, that ever attended me. How have the spirits of both those in power and the poor afflicted prisoners appeared to be subjected, and how has the work gone on ! Most assuredly the power and the glory is alone due to the Author and Finisher of every good work : things

in this way thus prosper beyond my most sanguine expectations, but there are also deep humiliations for me. My beloved children do not appear sufficiently under the influence of religion. I am ready to say, oh ! that I could prosper at home in my labours, as I appear to do abroad. Others appear to fear for me, that I am too much divided, but alas ! what can I do, but follow the openings. I think that I do also labour at home ; but He who searcheth the heart, who knoweth all things, He knows my faith, my goings out, and my comings in ; He knows the desires of my heart towards Himself—indeed the deep inward travail of my spirit has been unutterable and indescribable ; but my humble trust and strong confidence is, that He who hears and answers prayer, listens to my cry, hearkens to my deep inward supplications for myself, my husband, children, brothers, sisters, and household, my poor prisoners, and all things upon which I crave a blessing ; and that being breathed in the faith, and I humbly trust through the power of the Redeemer, access will be granted them, and that He who has been with me, will be with me even unto the end. Amen, and Amen, saith my unworthy, sorrowful, and yet in another sense, rejoicing soul ; as I do, at seasons through all, in a marvellous manner, in all my sorrows and cares, greatly and unspeakably rejoice in God my Saviour, my Redeemer, and my only hope of glory.

During this winter, Mrs. Fry's time was occupied to an extent, of which none but those who lived with her can form an idea. The letters she received from all parts of the country to inquire the particulars of the system pursued in Newgate, were numerous. Ladies wished to

form associations to visit the prisons, or magistrates to improve the state of the prisoners under their control ; these letters required long and careful answers, too much was at stake to send them off without seriously considering their contents. Some of the most distinguished and influential people in the kingdom, were anxious to witness, for themselves, what had been done in the prison ; and there was rarely a morning, part of which was not spent in accompanying such parties there. Poor people, thinking her purse as boundless as her goodwill, wrote innumerable petitions, "humbly praying" for assistance ; others sought for counsel, or desired employment, which they imagined she could obtain for them ; these letters required to be read and considered, and, although far the greater number were laid aside, others were of a nature, that she could not feel satisfied to pass unnoticed. Time was necessary to do any real good in extricating deserving families from difficulties. Her benevolence was of that cast, that she hardly could endure to know that others wanted the necessaries of life, whilst she was herself surrounded by superfluities and luxuries ; and it was always with pain that she refused the request of any of these applicants. The cases of many of the prisoners, also, demanded much time and attention. The whole of this press of business was accomplished, with no other help than that of her two daughters, who constantly employed under her direction, were able to prevent its greatly accumulating ; and in general the communications of each day, were attended to as they were presented.

Comparatively small as her knowledge of Prison Dis-

cipline, was at this time, Mrs. Fry had already arrived at conclusions with respect to this important subject, which future observation and more enlarged experience tended only to confirm. The idea of a prison exclusively for women was already entertained by her, and she made some attempts to induce the authorities to adapt the College of Physicians to this purpose. It is exactly behind Newgate, and was said to be likely to be sold. The necessity of female officers, being placed over female prisoners, also greatly impressed her; which with other similar points are clearly developed in the minutes of her evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons "On the Prisons of the Metropolis." This examination took place on the 27th February, 1818, and the results of the efforts of the Ladies' Association, up to that date are there recorded.

In the report of the Committee, this sentence occurs. "The benevolent exertions of Mrs. Fry and her friends, "in the female department of the Prison, have indeed, "by the establishment of a school, by providing work "and encouraging industrious habits, produced the most "gratifying change. But much must be ascribed to un- "remitting personal attention and influence."

CHAPTER VIII.

SUMMER AT PLASHET—CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—CASE OF SKELTON—
DUKE OF GLOUCESTER AND LORD SIDMOUTH—QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S
VISIT TO THE MANSION HOUSE—MARIA, FEMALE CONVICT SHIP—
VISITORS TO NEWGATE—LETTER FROM LADY MACKINTOSH—AGAIN
AT PLASHET—FAMILY CARES.

AFTER the arduous exertions and interests of the winter of 1817-18, it was no small relief to Mrs. Fry and her family, to find themselves once again in the retirement of Plashet.

Plashet, Fourth Month, 29th.—I desire thankfully to acknowledge our return to this sweet place, and all the dear children alive and well. May we more evidently *live* in the best sense, even unto God Since! I last wrote, I have led rather a remarkable life; so surprisingly followed after by the great, and others, in my Newgate concerns; in short, the prison and myself are become quite a show, which is a very serious thing in many points. I believe, that it certainly does much good to the cause, in spreading amongst all ranks of society, a considerable interest in the subject; also a knowledge of Friends and of their principles: but my own standing appears critical in many ways. In the first place, the extreme importance of my walking strictly, and circumspectly, amongst all men, in all

things ; and not bringing discredit upon the cause of truth and righteousness. In the next place, after our readings there, the ministry is a most awful calling, thus publicly amongst men to be "in season and out of season." I desire to live (more particularly in these things) in the fear of God rather than of man, and that neither good report nor evil report, the approbation nor disapprobation of men, should move me the least, but that my eye should be kept quite single to the great and good Shepherd and Bishop of souls ; this is my continual prayer for myself.

Yesterday, I had a day of ups and downs, as far as the opinions of man are concerned, in a remarkable degree. I found that there was a grievous misunderstanding between Lord Sidmouth and myself, and that some things I had done, had tried him exceedingly ; indeed, I see that I have mistaken it, in my conduct in some particulars, respecting the case of poor Skelton, and in the efforts made to save her life, I too incautiously spoke of some in power. When under great humiliation in consequence of this, Lady Harcourt, who most kindly interested herself in the subject, took me with her to the Mansion House, rather against my will, to meet many of the Royal Family at the examination of some large schools. Amongst the rest, the Queen was there. Much public respect was paid me, and except the Royal Family themselves, I think that no one received the same attention. There was quite a buzz when I went into the Egyptian Hall, where one to two thousand people were collected ; and when the Queen came to speak to me, which she did very kindly, there was, I am

told, a general clap. I think I may say, this hardly raised me at all, I was so very low from what had occurred before, and indeed, in so remarkably flat a state, even nervous.

Plasnet, Fifth Month, 2nd.—My mind has not recovered this matter of Lord Sidmouth's ; and finding the Bank Directors are also affronted with me, added to my trouble ; more particularly as there was an appearance of evil in my conduct ; but I trust no greater fault in reality, than a want of prudence in that which I expressed. I fear, however, that it has been construed into almost an untruth : these things are very trying to human nature, and even more so for the cause sake ; but I do trust that I may be enabled to stand my ground under it, and to remove these opinions. I am ready to believe that my great and good Master, will make a way for my deliverance, where I see no way.

Before explaining the cause of misunderstanding between Mrs. Fry and Lord Sidmouth, it is needful to glance at the subject of Capital Punishment, as it presented itself to her mind, at the existing state of the law, its practical execution, and the feeling of the public on the subject. Crimes of almost all grades and descriptions were then punishable with death. Almost every variety of robbery or fraud, although unattended with personal violence, could be treated as a capital offence. With respect to forgery, this was so absolutely the case, that Sir Thomas Edlyne Tomlins, in his Law Dictionary, published 1820, says (after a long list of all manner of possible and impossible cases), " By these, and other general and special acts and provisions, there

is now hardly a case possible to be conceived, wherein forgery that tends to defraud, whether in the name of a real or fictitious person, is not made a capital crime." Such was the state of the law, so sanguinary, as to prevent the possibility of its own execution. Had it been carried into effect, it was calculated that an average of above four executions daily would have taken place, exclusive of Sundays, in Great Britain and Ireland; the Old Bailey alone furnishing an average of above one hundred victims yearly. To lessen so monstrous an evil, every possible expedient was permitted, if not encouraged. The police, by bribery, or compassion arising from a touch of old fellowship, being themselves, often, but thieves turned thief-takers, connived at the escape of those whom they pretended to seek; juries shrunk from a word which brought death to the wretched culprit before them, and seized with thankfulness any extenuating circumstance to satisfy their consciences, and enable them to return a verdict of "Not Guilty." Judges inclined to the side of mercy; respites and reprieves were continually granted, when the cases left for death were considered in Council; but with all these openings for escape, the doomed were still too many, and some further expedient for lessening their number had to be discovered. The enormous increase of population, the vast and growing amount of wealth, and the multiplication of monetary transactions, added to the number and variety of forgery cases. The circulation of small notes gave great facility both to forgery itself, and uttering forged notes; and the law recognised no distinction between the systematic forger—the well-

dressed utterer, passing hundreds in the day, and the foolish lad or confiding female, who, misled by vanity, confounded by sophistry, or simply in obedience to the will of their betrayers, became at once their dupes and victims.

There was a system (now but a tale of the past, and only worthy of notice as depicting the evils from which our country has been delivered), of arranging for such as *were not to die*, to plead "Guilty to the minor Count;" the Bank solicitors, in conjunction with some of the Old Bailey authorities, thus selecting certain individuals for deliverance from death.*

For those who pleaded "Not Guilty," there was still the chance of some failure in evidence, or some favourable circumstance coming to light upon the trial; besides the last hope of a reprieve, when the report came down from Council. Instances there were, where "calculating chances," the accused would decline the proffered boon, and put in the plea of "Not Guilty," on the possibility of entirely escaping punishment.

But besides all these contingencies, there was another cause of impunity, arising from punishment being disproportioned to crime. A humane man could not endure to prosecute for robbery or fraud, however great the injury to his possessions, or loss of property might be; the life of a fellow-creature had to be weighed in the balance—the perishing things of time against the immortal spirit being hurried into eternity. Innumerable were the offenders who from this cause continued not

* The Bank of England had this power by an Act, 41 Geo. III. c. 39.

only unpunished, but in an unchecked career of fresh offences and increasing guilt. Such was the criminal law in word, and such in practice, when men began to rouse them, and awake to the fact, that crime was rapidly on the increase; whilst the laws were no longer applicable to the existing state of things, nor such as could be enforced, without a sacrifice of human life too fearful to contemplate. Ten years before, as early as the commencement of 1808, Sir Samuel Romilly had directed his attention to the severity of the criminal code, and brought the subject before Parliament; but it appearing to him that he "had no chance of being able to carry through the House, a Bill to expunge at once all these laws from the Statute-book, he determined to attempt the repeal of them one by one, and to begin with the most odious of them, the Act of Queen Elizabeth, which makes it a capital offence to steal privately from the person of another."* It was in May that he gave notice of his intention to bring in this Bill; but we find in the Journal of William Allen, dated April 12th, allusion to an association already in existence.

"Luke Howard went with me to Basil Montague's, Lincoln's Inn. Met Frederic Smith there, and agreed to join a little society; formed to endeavour to diminish the number of capital punishments."†

From that time, every succeeding Session, till his lamented death in 1818, Sir Samuel Romilly renewed his

* The Memoirs of the Life of Sir Samuel Romilly, edited by his Sons, vol. ii. second edition, p. 245.

† Life of William Allen, vol. i. p. 92.

attacks upon the state of the Criminal Code ; he changed his plan of operations as circumstances required, but though for many years almost single-handed, he never abandoned his design. Dr. Parr, Jeremy Bentham, and Dugald Stewart, addressed him in strong terms of encouragement. That Dr. Parr's ultimate views extended even further, is implied by the counsel which he offered Sir Samuel Romilly, "*for the present,*" to confine his "Plan of Reform to crimes unaccompanied with violence." The association already alluded to, continued its operations, circulated tracts and other papers, and diffused general information on the subject. In the House of Lords, amongst the few supporters of Romilly's measures, Lord Holland was the foremost, and the Marquis of Lansdowne supported the same side. In 1810, we find the Dukes of Sussex and Gloucester united with these noblemen in signing a protest, when the Peers rejected Sir Samuel's Bill, to remove the penalty of death for shoplifting.

"Dissentient.—1st. Because the statute proposed to be repealed appears to us unreasonably severe, inasmuch as it punishes with death the offence of stealing property to a very inconsiderable amount, without violence, or any other aggravation.

"2ndly. Because, to assign the same punishment for heinous crimes and slight offences, tends to confound the notions of right and wrong, to diminish the horror atrocious guilt ought always to inspire, and to weaken the reverence in which it is desirable that the laws of the country should be held.

“ 3rdly. Because severe laws are, in our judgment, more likely to produce a deviation from the strict execution of justice, than to deter individuals from the commission of crimes ; and our apprehension that such may be the effect is confirmed in this instance, by the reflection, that the offence in question is become more frequent, and the punishment, probably on account of its rigour, is seldom or never inflicted.

“ 4thly. Because the value of money has decreased since the reign of King William, and the statute is consequently become a law of much greater severity than the legislature which passed it ever intended to enact.

“ WILLIAM FREDERIC.

“ AUGUSTUS FREDERIC.

“ VASSAL HOLLAND.

“ LANSDOWNE.”

When a party theory, or visionary scheme occasions even strong excitement, a little time and reality dispels it. Not so, when justice and humanity claim conjointly to be heard. The history of the last fifty years has taught us, that their success may be delayed by prejudice, impeded by difficulties, and opposed by selfishness ; but in the end they triumph. Mrs. Fry's visits to Newgate had brought her in close communication with the condemned criminals in that prison, and had furnished her with an intimate knowledge of the effects of an execution, and the circumstances attendant upon it ; nor was it Mrs. Fry alone, who, on this important subject, was acquiring knowledge from personal observation.

At that time Newgate had become almost a show ;

the statesman and noble, the city functionary and the foreign traveller, the high-bred gentlewoman, the clergyman and the dissenting minister, flocked to witness the extraordinary change that had passed over the scene. From time to time, the condemned cell on the female side was occupied. The visitors to Newgate were informed that on such a day, and at such a time, some poor woman, whose name and offence were told them, was to die, and that her few remaining hours were being there passed in comparative seclusion. They heard of the same things on the men's side of the prison, and perhaps visited the culprits; but invariably on the female side, when collected for the Scripture readings, some women might be seen occupying the front bench, the seat appointed for those under sentence of death. These were persons who had received sentence at the Old Bailey, but were awaiting their final doom from the decision of the Council. A newspaper announcement that such a person or persons were this morning executed in front of Newgate may cause a sensation, but it is quickly gone. To look upon persons full of life and strength and capacity, and to know that they are doomed to die by their fellow-mortals, occasions another and a very different feeling. One woman the day before her execution, said to Mrs. Fry, "I feel life so strong within me, that I cannot believe that this time to-morrow I am to be dead!" Nor was this confined to those who saw: the tale was repeated, the scene described, and the event became a topic of general discussion. The statesman viewed it more especially as a political question, in its tendency to increase or diminish crime: the philanthro-

pist considered it chiefly, as it affected the individual offender: the merchant and the man of business interested himself in a question so closely affecting the security of property.

Newspaper paragraphs were written—pamphlets were circulated; the public mind became excited, and the voice of the people made itself heard.

On February the 17th, two women were executed for forgery, Charlotte Newman and Mary Ann James. The morning of their execution, Newman addressed a letter to Mrs. Fry; and James wrote one to her fellow-prisoners; these letters found their way into the public prints. The calm and submissive tone in which they were written, astonished those who knew not of the fearful opiate administered to the soul, in the universal belief of criminals under sentence of death for forgery—that they were more sinned against than sinning—that they were martyrs to a harsh and uncertain law, by which property was held of greater value than the life of man—and that thus, being in the position of the injured parties, they had but to meet their fate with fortitude and submission, and heaven would be their just reward.

During this spring there were continual executions; but no longer passed over as a matter of course, they became a prominent topic of discussion, both as to the individual cases, and the general principle involved. Within the prison, the report from the Council was expected with even more than usual anxiety. It was always a time of fearful excitement and fearful anticipation, to all but those who were so hardened by crime as to scoff alike at the laws of God and man.

There were no data by which to form any conclusion ; no reasons to be discovered for the selections made ; every one knew that he might suffer, and every one alike hoped to escape. Among the rest was a woman named Harriett Skelton ; a very child might have read her countenance, open, confiding, expressing strong feeling, but neither hardened in depravity, nor capable of cunning ; her story bore out this impression. Under the influence of the man she loved, she had passed forged notes ; adding one more to the melancholy list of those, who by the finest impulses of our nature, uncontrolled by religion, have been lured to their own destruction.

She was ordered for execution—the sentence was unlooked for—her deportment in the prison had been good, amenable to regulations, quiet and orderly ; some of her companions in guilt were heard to say, that they supposed she was chosen for death, because she was better prepared than the rest of them.

The condemned cell for females was a narrow apartment, with two windows, one commanding the inner quadrangle, where were the tried prisoners, the other looking into a long passage, with iron grating on either side, dividing the tried from the untried side of the prison, across which the convicts were permitted to communicate with their friends. There she was taken, to pass her few and numbered days on earth ; two women were in attendance upon her, according to the usual custom on these occasions. She might receive the visits of the Ordinary, or any friend admitted by the Governor ; but by her the cell was not to be again quitted, till she left the prison for the scaffold.

There was a white-headed old man, who might be seen at those times, in frequent attendance upon these poor captives ; having for years devoted much time and attention to unostentatious but invaluable visits in Newgate. Never did he show more of his Master's spirit, than in his treatment of the prisoners sentenced to die ; he appeared skilled in imparting to them something of his own humility, and though he could not, nor did he endeavour to persuade them in all cases to acquiesce in the justice of the sentence, he led many of them to the knowledge of being but miserable sinners themselves, and to some acquaintance with that Saviour, who had experienced in his own person a malefactor's death.

But Skelton had other visitors besides Mr. Baker. Dwellers in palaces and lordly halls were to be found in her desolate abode ; it was a new scene for them ; the dark vaulted passages—the clanking fetters—the damp smell—the grating sound as the heavy key was turned—the massive bolt drawn back—and the iron-sheathed door forced reluctantly open.

Her case excited the strongest compassion. Mrs. Fry was urged even vehemently, to exert herself in behalf of the unfortunate woman ; there were circumstances of extenuation, though not of a nature to alter the letter of the law. Amongst other attempts, she made one through the Duke of Gloucester. They had not seen each other for many years ; not since the days of the scarlet riding habit, and the military band, at Norwich. How differently did they meet now—on what altered ground renew their acquaintance. Life had been tried by them both—the world and its fascinations. The

Duke of Gloucester came to Newgate, and his former companion in the dance, led him with sober, if not solemn brow, through the gloom and darkness of that most gloomy of prisons. He made a noble effort to save Skelton by an application to Lord Sidmouth ; he accompanied Mrs. Fry to the Bank Directors ; but all was in vain—the law took its course, and she was hanged.

Mrs. Fry had strongly expressed herself with respect to the Bank of England cases, and probably had insisted on circumstances, which, though true in fact, were difficult distinctly to prove. She had applied to Lord Sidmouth herself and through others, and had been the indirect means of causing much excitement on the subject of Capital Punishment. Government was becoming embarrassed. To touch so complicated a machine as the criminal code of England, appeared an undertaking too vast and dangerous to attempt ; and yet, such was the pressure from without, that something must be yielded to popular feeling. Lord Sidmouth was seriously annoyed, and expressed his annoyance in a mode so distressing to her, that with all her gentleness and forbearance, Mrs. Fry was compelled to acknowledge, that she could hold no further direct communication with one, who assumed to doubt her veracity, unless some explanation was offered. The question at issue, related to the power lodged in the Bank of England, to select such persons as they considered fit subjects to plead “guilty” to the minor count, and so to escape the extreme penalty of the law.*

* 41 Geo. III., c. 29.

Mrs. Fry never was shaken in the belief that Skelton had had the offer so to do, but most unwisely, as it proved, had rejected it, and that through this error in judgment, she had paid the forfeit of her life. Here terminated their intercourse, deeply to her regret, after the kindness and consideration with which Lord Sidmouth had treated her, and until that period, listened to her suggestions. Mrs. Fry had not abandoned all hope of reconciliation, without endeavouring, by a personal interview to remove his impressions, and to convince him, that although she might be mistaken, and have erred in judgment, her intentions had been upright, and her desire sincere not to oppose his wishes. The Countess Harcourt, who proved herself a kind and faithful friend on this, as on many other occasions, accompanied her. Nothing but pain resulted from the visit. Wounded and grieved, she quitted the Home Office, to go, by command of Queen Charlotte, to the Mansion House, still under the protection of Lady Harcourt. There it was intended that she should be in the drawing-room presented to her Majesty, but, by some misunderstanding, Lady Harcourt and Mrs. Fry were conducted at once to the Egyptian Hall, and placed on the side of the platform to await the arrival of the royal party. After a time, the Queen perceived Mrs. Fry, and, at the close of the examination, advanced to address her. It was a subject for Hayter—the diminutive stature of the Queen, covered with diamonds, but her countenance lighted up with an expression of the kindest benevolence ; Mrs. Fry, her simple Quaker's dress adding to the height of her figure, though a little flushed, preserving her wonted calmness

of look and manner, several of the bishops standing near her, the platform crowded with waving feathers, jewels, and orders, the noble hall lined with spectators, and in the centre, hundreds of poor children brought there to be examined, from their different schools. The English nation may be slow in perceiving the beauty of a moral sentiment, but when perceived, none appreciate it more highly. A murmur of applause ran through the assembly, followed by a simultaneous clap, and a shout, which was taken up by the multitude without, and died away in the distance. They hailed the scene before them; they saw in it not so much the Queen and the Philanthropist, as royalty offering its meed of approval at the shrine of mercy and good works.

A fresh object of interest now opened upon the attention of the Ladies' Newgate Association—the mode of removing female convicts for transportation from the various prisons whence they came, and the circumstances under which they were to pass the long and dreary months of confinement on ship-board.

It was a practice amongst the female transports to have a sort of saturnalia or riot before leaving Newgate, breaking windows, furniture, or whatever came within their reach. They were generally conveyed from the prison to the water side in open waggons, went off shouting amidst assembled crowds, and were noisy and disorderly on the road and in the boats. Mrs. Fry prevailed on the Governor to consent to their being moved in hackney coaches. She then promised the women, if they would be quiet and orderly, that she and other ladies would accompany them to Deptford, and see them

on board ; accordingly when the time came, no disturbance took place ; the women in hackney coaches, with turnkeys in attendance, formed a procession closed by her carriage, and they behaved well upon the road.

On board ship the ladies were distressed to find so many women and children herded together below deck ; but as they were to be divided into messes of six, and as each woman must of necessity associate the most with those of her own mess, there appeared the opportunity for something like classification. This was no sooner proposed, than accepted by all concerned in the arrangement ; they were divided into classes of twelve, including the monitor, chosen from the number by the women themselves. As far as possible, those whose ages or criminality were similar were placed together ; each class contained two messes. The superintendence thus became as complete as the nature of the case would permit. There were one hundred and twenty-eight convicts, besides their unhappy children.

Employment and instruction were still wanting ; the women complained of having nothing to do. To procure work for a hundred and twenty-eight persons, during so long a voyage, appeared to be a hopeless endeavour ; and even if it could be obtained from Government or individuals, that it would be useless to give it to them with no responsible person to take charge either of its execution or appropriation.

The ladies were told, that patchwork and fancywork found a ready sale in New South Wales. They accordingly made it known, that they required little pieces of coloured cotton for this purpose ; and in a few days,

enough were sent from the different Manchester houses in London, fully to supply them with work, aided by some knitting. The time and ingenuity required in patchwork, rendered it a particularly suitable occupation ; and as the convicts were to have the things when done to sell for their own profit on arrival, it was evidently their interest to turn their skill to the best account. By this means, another important good was effected ; for at that time, no factory or barrack of any description existed, for the reception of the women when landed in the colony, not so much as a hut in which they could take refuge, so that they were literally driven to vice, or left to lie in the streets. The proceeds of their industry on board ship, though small, would enable such as desired it, to obtain shelter until engaged as servants, or until they could find some respectable means of subsistence.

A fact that occurred the following year, in the Wellington female convict ship, shewed the correctness of this opinion, and how well patchwork had answered the intended purpose, for when that ship touched at Rio de Janeiro, the quilts made by the women were there sold for a guinea each. Bibles, prayer-books, and religious tracts, were placed under the care of each monitor, for the use of her class ; arrangements were also made, that those who could not read, and wished to learn, should have the opportunity of doing so.

But though some provision was thus made for the necessities of the women, the poor children were left in misery and ignorance, and fourteen were of an age to receive instruction. With some difficulty, a small

space towards the after part of the vessel was set apart for a school ; there, during the greater part of the day, the children were taught to read, knit, and sew. One of the convicts undertook to be school-mistress, for whom a reward was placed in the hands of the captain, provided she persevered in her duties to the end of the voyage.

During the five weeks that the ship lay in the river, some of the ladies engaged in the prison work, devoted much of their time to making these arrangements. The expense of £72 : 10s. was incurred in working materials, aprons for the women, and additional clothing for the most destitute. The good effects of these regulations were speedily seen, but none were sanguine as to their continuing in force after the ship had fairly put to sea, and there would be no longer any stimulus or inducement to persevere. The Captain, a very respectable man, died suddenly at Calcutta on the voyage home, which prevented its being ascertained with certainty, how long, or to what extent the plans were beneficial. The only person who could give or enforce an order, was the surgeon-superintendent, appointed by Government to the care of the women ; and in this instance, the appointment had fallen on a man, who did not take the least interest in the moral organization of the convict ship.

The last time that Mrs. Fry was on board the *Maria*, whilst she lay at Deptford, was a solemn and interesting occasion. There was great uncertainty whether the poor convicts would see their benefactress again. She stood at the door of the cabin, attended by her friends and the Captain ; the women on the quarter-deck facing

them. The sailors, anxious to see what was going on, clambered into the rigging, upon the capstan, or mingled in the outskirts of the group. The silence was profound—when Mrs. Fry opened her bible, and in a clear audible voice read a portion from it.

The crews of the other vessels in the tier, attracted by the novelty of the scene, leaned over the ships on either side, and listened apparently with great attention; she closed the bible, and after a short pause, knelt down on the deck, and implored a blessing on this work of Christian charity from that God, who though one may “sow and another water,” can alone “give the increase.” Many of the women wept bitterly, all seemed touched; when she left the ship they followed her with their eyes and their blessings, until her boat having passed within another tier of vessels, they could see her no more.

It is needful now to revert to the excitement produced in the public mind, when the knowledge of the remarkable transformation effected in Newgate began to be spread abroad. The visits of Mrs. Fry were the theme of conversation in all circles, and the accounts circulated of the interesting and imposing scenes which were to be witnessed there, brought a strange variety of persons to that abode of sorrow. It would be too much to say that all, who then, or in after times, attended the readings in Newgate, were actuated by high and holy feelings in desiring admittance, but if a list of the names of the visitors could be published, it would prove how strong was the sympathy felt among the nobly born, and richly endowed with intellectual as well as worldly wealth. A letter, written, at this time, is so descriptive of this, that

we are grateful to the surviving members of the writer's family, for their concurrence in its insertion here.

Extract of a letter from Lady Mackintosh to Mrs. Fry.

“ I have had a note from Sir James, in which is the following passage; I cannot resist copying it, in the hope of your pardon for doing so. ‘ I dined, Saturday, June 3rd, at Devonshire House: the company consisted of the Duke of Norfolk, Lords Lansdowne, Lauderdale, Albemarle, Cowper, Hardwicke, Carnarvon, Sefton, Ossulston, Milton, and Duncannon, &c. The subject was Mrs. Fry's exhortation to forty-five female convicts, at which Lord —— had been present on Friday. He could hardly refrain from tears in speaking of it. He called it the deepest tragedy he had ever witnessed. What she read and expounded to the convicts, with almost miraculous effect, was the 4th chapter to the Ephesians. Coke (of Norfolk) begged me to go with him next Friday; I doubt whether, as that is the day of my motion, I shall be able to go, and whether it be prudent to expose myself to the danger of being too much warmed by the scene, just before a speech, in which I shall need all my discretion.’ ”

“ As the above extract was only intended for my eye, I am sure you will so consider it. My motive for submitting it to you is twofold, that you may not be ignorant how much your great work of mercy contributes to inspire good feelings, and to supply pure and edifying subjects of conversation at the tables of the most illustrious persons in the country, for rank and talents; and also to know if you will have the kindness to inform me,

whether there is not some mistake in the day to which Lord —— alludes.”

But the pointed pen of Sydney Smith must complete the sketch.—“ There is a spectacle which this town exhibits, that I will venture to call the most solemn, the most Christian, the most affecting which any human being ever witnessed. To see that holy woman in the midst of the wretched prisoners, to see them all calling earnestly upon God, soothed by her voice, animated by her look, clinging to the hem of her garment, and worshipping her as the only being who has ever loved them, or taught them, or noticed them, or spoke to them of God ! This is the sight which breaks down the pageant of the world, which tells us that the short hour of life is passing away, and that we must prepare by some good deeds to meet God ; that it is time to give, to pray, to comfort, to go, like this blessed woman, and do the work of our heavenly Saviour, Jesus, among the guilty, among the broken-hearted and the sick, and to labour in the deepest and darkest wretchedness of life !”

Among the visitors were to be found persons, who, as friends of humanity, came to ascertain the truth of all that they had heard : actuated by the same motives, bishops, clergymen, and other ministers of religion resorted thither. It will be at once seen how the concurring testimony of individuals, distinguished in such various ways, must have influenced public opinion in favour of a mode of treatment, which, in the course of a few weeks, had struck at the root of the more glaring evils, so lately existing in the principal metropolitan prison of

England. Nor can it be doubted that the influx of visitors, objectionable as it must be considered in itself, and injurious as it would be, in a well-ordered prison, was then an important means of spreading knowledge and exciting interest, and thus assisting to prepare the way for the improvements in prison discipline subsequently effected. The rapidity and ease with which legislative enactments on these subjects were afterwards carried, may be in part attributed to what had been seen and learnt in Newgate.

The ladies of the Committee had at this time effected several minor arrangements to lessen the temptations, and increase the reasonable comforts of the prisoners. In the early part of the year, they took measures to prevent the introduction of an unlimited quantity of beer into the prison. They engaged a sub-matron or gate-keeper, who assisted in the lodge, and amongst other duties, superintended a little shop, which had been established, as it is quaintly expressed in their minute book, "between gates," where tea, sugar, a little haberdashery, and other equally harmless articles, were sold to the prisoners. The communication between them and their friends outside the prison being so much restricted, lessened their supplies from that quarter, and the prison allowance being scarcely sufficient, this plan was resorted to, in order to meet their necessities, and ensure their portion of the earnings being expended in a proper manner.

And now once more the scene changes, and Elizabeth Fry, the anxious mother, is devoting herself in the retirement of Plashet to the care of her children; and in

her difficulties and anxieties, pouring out her heart to Him who had hitherto helped her.

Plasnet, Seventh Month, 24th, 1818.—I have many causes of deep anxiety at this time. What to do with our boys, for the best, has occupied much of my consideration, and at present I see no other way than continuing them at school ; but I do not acknowledge too much, if I say that it is the prayer of my heart that a kind Providence may open the way for their going to the best place for them, wherever it may be, and deep is the craving of my spirit, that they may in the end go on well. O Lord ! I beseech Thee, whatsoever Thou mayst be pleased to do with them, whether to grant them health or sickness, riches or poverty, long life or short life, oh, for Thy beloved Son's sake, give them not over to the will of their enemies, but establish their goings in Thy paths ; put a new song into their mouths, even praises to Thee their God. And seeing, gracious Lord, that in a very marvellous manner, Thou hast been pleased to make a way for Thy child and servant, where she could see no way—how in a wonderful manner Thou restored her in early life, showed Thyself to be on her side, when spiritually her enemies appeared ready to overcome and destroy her, and how also in many and various seasons, “Thou hast made darkness light before her, and crooked paths straight.” How thou hast been pleased to raise her from season to season, from the bed of languishing ; how Thou hast temporally cared for her, and answered her prayer, when it appeared likely even that she would be scarcely provided for ; how Thou hast helped her in spirit at seasons to do Thy will, to see

into the glorious mysteries of Thy kingdom ; how Thou hast aided her in her weakness, and enabled her to overcome the extreme fear of man, and to declare Thy doings amongst the people, and to show Thy marvellous works to the children of men, even from princes and prelates, to the poorest, lowest, and most destitute, so as in a remarkable manner to bring to pass what she saw for herself in early life, though as through a glass darkly, but others more clearly saw for her, and had to declare unto her. And seeing, gracious Lord and Almighty God and Saviour, how Thou hast been pleased to deal with Thy unworthy servant, to increase in her even at seasons, mightily and powerfully the knowledge of Thee her God, and Christ Jesus her Lord—be pleased to help her in the like precious faith, and preserve her from the many snares of the enemy. Let not the spirit of the world or its applause ever again entangle her ; nor the reproach of any, not even of the good, unduly discourage her, but let her be increasingly Thine own, and at all times, at all seasons, and in every place, by whoever surrounded, give unto Thee the glory due unto Thy Name, and worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. And let neither heights, nor depths, life, nor death, nor any other thing, ever separate her from Thy love, but enable her, O Lord ! at all times, and at all seasons, and in every place, and by whomsoever surrounded, to glorify thy great and ever-excellent name, with Thy beloved Son Christ Jesus our Lord. And with regard to her beloved family, be unto them, what Thou hast been unto her ; even their Guide, and their Guard ; their God and their Saviour ; and make a way for them, where their poor

mother sees no way for them. Amen, says my unworthy soul, cast down but not destroyed, afflicted but not in despair, at times almost comfortless, but not forsaken ; at other times abounding in the joy and blessing of my God.

CHAPTER IX.

SCOTCH JOURNEY—PRISONS AND LUNATICS—TAKES HER SONS TO SCHOOL — ILLNESS, JOURNEY IN CONSEQUENCE — REPLY TO PRISONERS' LETTERS—RETURN TO PLASHET, 1819—BROADSTAIRS — SPENDS THE WINTER IN LONDON—RETURN TO PLASHET, 1820 — AFFLICTION IN HER FAMILY—FEMALE CONVICTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES—LETTER FROM THE REV. S. MARSDEN—JOURNEY INTO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND—RETURN TO LONDON FOR THE WINTER — PRISONS IN ST. PETERSBURG—LETTER FROM JOHN VENNING, ESQ.

THE holidays over, and the school-room party again settled to work, Elizabeth Fry believed it her duty to accompany her brother, Joseph John Gurney, into Scotland, partly in the character of a minister to visit the Meetings of Friends, and partly to investigate the condition of the prisons of that country.

At Aberdeen, she writes, August 29, 1818.—

Aberdeen, 29th.—I have felt low upon arriving here ; five hundred miles from my beloved husband and children ! but a good account of them is cause for thankfulness ; still it is a deeply-weighty thing, and I have to try my ground again and again. In almost every new place, the language of my spirit is—Why am I here ? At this place we find several other Friends, also travelling in the ministry, which makes me feel it the more ; but as my coming is not of my own choice, or my own ordering, I desire to leave it, and to commit

myself; my spirit and body, and all that is dear to me, absent and present, to Christ my Redeemer. We visited the old Barclay seat at Ury, where our mother's forefathers once lived. How great the change from what it once was !

From Aberdeen the travellers proceeded to Edinburgh and Glasgow, attending various Friends' Meetings on their way to Liverpool. There, she hardly dares "raise her eyes" at Meeting, for the "feathers and ribbons" before her ; but notwithstanding these outward adornings, she acknowledges the "best help was afforded," and that "truth appeared to be in great dominion."

From the pleasant dwelling of her old and faithful friends, the Benson family, in the outskirts of Liverpool, she and her party went to Knowsley from the "pressing invitation" of the late Countess of Derby, for many years a warm and admiring friend of Mrs. Fry's. Lady Derby was one, who, whilst she fulfilled in private life its gentler charities and domestic duties, adorned it with the grace and talent of her earlier years. But Mrs. Fry here must tell her own story.

Knowsley, Ninth Month, 23rd.—We were received with the utmost kindness and openness by all this very large household ; a palace was now our allotment ; a cottage has been so during our journey ; my internal feeling was humiliation and self abasement. Yet I rather enjoyed the novelty and cheerfulness of the scene ; there were nearly thirty of their family and guests ; cordial kindness was shown us ; our scruples most particularly attended to, and every effort made to promote our comfort.

Knowsley, 24th.—Here we are, all the family about to be collected for a religious opportunity ; Lord, be pleased to be with us, to own us by Thy life-giving presence, and help us by Thy Spirit, for it is a very awful time. Make us, Thy unworthy children, fit for Thy service, and touch our lips as with a live coal from Thy altar, for we are unworthy to take Thy great and ever-excellent name into our mouths. Thou Lord only knowest the state of Thy unworthy servant ; help her infirmities, blot out her transgressions, and enable her to show forth thy praise, if consistent with thy Holy Will, that all may be more abundantly converted unto Thee, and brought into the knowledge of Thy beloved Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sheffield, 26th.—After writing the above, I was summoned into the dining-room where the family were assembled—I should think in all nearly a hundred. My beloved brother read the third chapter of John ; there was then a solemn pause, and I found it my place to kneel down, praying for a blessing upon the house and family, and giving thanks for the mercies bestowed upon them ; particularly in the time of their affliction, in having been supported by the everlasting Arm ; and prayer arose for its being sanctified to them. The large party appeared humbled and tendered—then dearest Joseph arose, and was greatly helped by the power of the Spirit—I followed him with a few words. Many of the party were in tears ; some exceedingly affected. Joseph then knelt down, greatly helped ; the service principally fell upon him, dear fellow. After he rose, I reminded them of the words of our blessed Redeemer, “ that whosoever

giveth a disciple a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, shall receive a disciple's reward ;" this, I said, I humbly trusted would be their case. I also alluded to their servants' kindness in the same way. Thus ended this memorable occasion. It was like what we read of in Friends' journals formerly, when the power appeared to be over all in a very extraordinary manner. I remember in John Richardson's journal some such an account. So it is—and this is not and cannot be our own work ; surely it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes.

The very next visit after Knowsley, was a call upon two ancient Friends, who with their one sturdy maid-servant to wait upon and take care of them, abode very peacefully in their cottage dwelling, awaiting their call, when their lengthened pilgrimage should be ended. Curious was the variety in three days—from the finished villa residence of the Benson family, to the lordly halls of the descendants of the defender of Man and Charlotte de la Tremouille, and the "keeping room" of the worthy Friends, whose dinner, a small roast and fruit pudding formed the luncheon of the travellers.

As the Notes* made by Mr. Gurney on the state of the prisons of Scotland, were published after his return, it is needless here to do more than glance at a few of the most fearful scenes there encountered,

* Notes on a Visit made to some of the Prisons in Scotland and the North of England, in company with Elizabeth Fry. By Joseph John Gurney. London : Printed for Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1819.

scarcely to be credited as existing within the present century.

Durham old Gaol and House of Correction, and the Gaols at Haddington, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Carlisle, as well as many in the smaller Borough towns, were of the worst possible description. In many places, the expediency of erecting prisons on an improved plan was under consideration ; and in some they were already in course of building.

“ *Dunbar Gaol.*—You ascend a narrow dirty staircase, into two small rooms, of which this little Borough gaol consists. These two rooms, one of which is for debtors, the other for criminals of all descriptions, are kept in a state of extreme filth, and are severally furnished with a little straw, and a tub for every dirty purpose. There is no court nor airing ground in the prison, nor any other accommodation whatever. Happily, there was no one confined here.”

“ *Haddington County Gaol.*—Very different was the case with this gaol ; for, in consequence chiefly of a riot which had taken place in the neighbourhood, we found it crowded with prisoners ; and seldom indeed have we seen any poor creatures so wretchedly circumstanced. That part of the prison which is allotted to criminals and vagrants consists of four cells on the ground floor, measuring respectively thirteen feet by eight, and one on the second story, measuring eleven feet by seven. It is difficult to conceive any thing more entirely miserable than these cells. Very dark—excessively dirty—clay floors—no fire-places—straw in one corner

for a bed, with perhaps a single rug—a tub in each of them, the receptacle of all filth.

“Another scene of still greater barbarity was in reserve for us. In the fourth cell—a cell as miserable as the rest—was a young man in a state of lunacy. No one knew who he was, or whence he came; but having had the misfortune to frequent the premises of some gentleman in the neighbourhood, and to injure his garden seats, and being considered mischievous, he was consigned to this abominable dungeon, where he had been, at the date of our visit, in unvaried solitary confinement, for eighteen months.”

“No clothing is allowed in this prison; no medical man attends it; no chaplain visits it. Its miserable inmates never leave their cells, for there is no change of rooms, and no airing-ground; nor can they be under any one’s constant and immediate care, for the jailor lives away from the prison. They can, however, keep up an almost unchecked communication with the people of the town, as the small grated windows of their cells look upon the streets.”

“But I have yet to describe the most objectionable point of this terrible prison, namely, its accommodation for those debtors who are not burgesses. There were at this time three men of that description in the prison; shortly before, there had been five, and at one time, seven. These unhappy persons, innocent as they are of any punishable offence, be they many or be they few, be they healthy or be they sick—are confined day and night, without any change or intermission whatsoever,

in a closet, containing one small bed, and measuring not quite nine feet square."

But that which most deeply affected Mrs. Fry, and excited sorrowful recollections, which she retained to the close of her life, was the condition of the poor lunatics confined in those prisons. Not a wretched prisoner fastened to an iron bar at Haddington; not those chained to the bedstead at Forfar; or to the wall of their cells, as at Berwick; or to a ring on the floor, as at Newcastle, left such a melancholy impression on her mind, as the state of the poor lunatic in the cell at Haddington; though happily, this evil also was in progress of remedy, through the erection of Lunatic Asylums.

The frequent appeals made by Mrs. Fry in behalf of the insane, and the tenderness with which she treated them when she came in personal contact with those afflicted ones in prisons or other places, proved how powerfully her heart was touched with compassion for that heaviest of human maladies; "the worst of evils," as she once expressed it, "to the individual and those connected with him, except sin."

It was with pleasure the travellers found the Bridewell at Aberdeen, and the House of Correction at Preston, approaching to what was then considered a standard of excellence.

To such persons as were interested in Prison Reform, Mr. Gurney's book afforded much matter for reflection. Whilst they deplored the evils he described, they rejoiced that they should be brought to light, as the first step towards their being remedied. Attempts were made

to contradict some of the facts he asserted, but entirely failed.

The beginning of the present century, though marked by strong political feeling and national excitement, presented the same apathy as to questions of moral benevolence, which from the time of the Commonwealth had pervaded all ranks and conditions of men. But a new era was approaching—a better day beginning to dawn. Many were prepared to hail any advance towards improvement, who, whilst they shrank from alteration for the sake of change, were yet capable of appreciating the fact, that with the progress of civilization, the increase of population, and the altered state of society, institutions adapted to a former day had become inapplicable; and that measures suited to the darker ages could not bear the investigation and increasing light of knowledge. But far beyond these considerations of expediency, was the growing influence of Religion; she raised her voice to proclaim, that Reformation, not Revenge, is the object of Punishment—to be a “terror to evil doers, and a praise to those who do well;” whilst, in the words of her Great Master, she might be heard to say—“neither do I condemn thee—go, and sin no more.”

In the early part of 1819, Mrs. Fry's health suddenly gave way. She had taken a fatiguing journey to Darlington, to place her two eldest boys at school there. She had returned to many cares and some anxieties, and as the spring approached, became completely ill. The end of March she records another “deep plunge of illness, and much lowness of spirits,” but goes on to say—“Help and a little strength has been granted, and con-

siderable relief from great faintness and illness, so that I have yet sweet hope and belief that my Redeemer, who has shown Himself on every side, will not give me over to the will of mine enemies, but will, more and more, arise for my help spiritually and naturally. Oh ! Most Gracious Lord, still help me ; keep me near to Thyself ; send health and cure, when consistent with Thine holy and ever blessed will ; and grant Thy poor child, a humble, quiet, and resigned spirit." A journey into Kent and Surrey was at last resolved upon. She travelled by easy stages on a bed in the carriage. The lovely scenery and change of air greatly revived her, and she returned to London in May, comparatively well.

At Brighton Mrs. Fry had the pleasure of receiving two letters from the female prisoners of Newgate, expressing much humility and gratitude, and affectionate feeling towards herself and the other ladies. Very characteristic is her reply :—

" Brighton, Fourth Month, 4th 1819.

" To the female prisoners in Newgate, more particularly to those who are likely to leave their native land, perhaps never to return to it.

" Although it has pleased the Almighty, that for some time I should be separated from you by illness, yet you have often been in my affectionate remembrance, accompanied with anxious desires for your good. I am fully sensible, that many of you claim our pity and most tender compassion—that many have been your temptations, many your afflictions, and what we may most pity you for is, that in the time of temptation you have yielded

to what is wrong, and so given yourselves over to the will of the enemy of your souls ! But, mournful as your state is, yet you may have hope, and that abundantly, if you only seek to repent, to return from the error of your ways, and live unto God. Remember these words —“ Christ came into the world to save sinners,” and that “ He is able to save to the very uttermost those who come unto God by Him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Therefore let me entreat you, before it is too late, to come unto Christ—to seek him with your heart—and to submit yourselves unto Him and His righteous law ; for He knows all your thoughts and all your desires, and is willing and ready to receive you, to heal your backslidings, and to love you freely. He was said to be the Friend of sinners, and those will indeed find Him their friend, who look to Him and obey Him : He will enable such to forsake the evil of their ways, and to do that which is acceptable in His sight. Do you not remember, in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, that when he was yet *afar off*, the Father saw him, had compassion on him, and even went out to meet him. So I doubt not, you will find it, even some of you who are now *afar off* from what is good ; if you are only willing to return, you would find yourselves met by your Lord, even with great compassion, and He would do more for you than you could ask or think. I feel much love for you, and much desire for your own sakes, for the sake of others, and for our sakes, who are willing to do what we can to serve you, that you would thus in heart seek the Lord, and prove your love to Him and your repentance, by your good works and by your

orderly conduct. I was much grieved at the little disturbance amongst you the other day, but I was pleased with the letter written me by those who were engaged in it, and I quite forgive them. Let me entreat you, whatever trying or even provoking things may happen, to do so no more, for you sadly hurt the cause of poor prisoners by doing so, I may say all over the kingdom ; and you thus enable your enemies to say, that our plans of kindness do not answer, and therefore they will not let others be treated kindly. Before I bid you farewell, I will tell you that I am not without a hope of seeing you before long, even before the poor women go to the Bay ; but if I do not, may the blessing of the Lord go with you when on the mighty deep, and in a strange land. What comfort would a good account of you give us, who are so much interested for you ; and in case I should not see you, I have two things particularly to mention to you and guard you against—things that I believe have brought most of you to this prison. The one is, giving way to drinking too much, the other is freedom with men. I find I can most frequently trace the fall of women to these two things ; therefore let me beseech you to watch in these respects, and let your modesty and sobriety appear before all. That you may grow in these and every other Christian virtue and grace, is the sincere desire and prayer of your affectionate friend and sincere well-wisher, ELIZABETH FRY.”

The summer of 1819 stole by at Plashet with all her family around her. In the autumn a month was happily passed at Broadstairs ; then it was Mrs. Fry began her col-

lection of English shells : pleasant is the remembrance of those sunny days—long rambles after an early dinner—expeditions in search of shells, or sea-weed—then sorting and arranging them—the children's enjoyment scarcely surpassing their mother's in their mutual pursuits, and their deliverance from extraneous objects.

But with the winter again came London, its absorbing interests, and harass of occupations, becoming almost greater than could be endured, without the sacrifice of even stronger claims and higher duties.

At this period the entries in her journal are only occasional, frequently at intervals of some months ; and then seldom more than her reflections on passing events, with little or no direct information respecting the events themselves ; earnest desires for good, and petitions for Divine assistance, constituting the greater part of them. After the arduous exertions, and varied interests of this winter, it was no small relief to Mrs. Fry to find herself again with her family in the retirement of Plashet ; but her enjoyment there was soon clouded by peculiar, and most touching family sorrow. It pleased Him, whose ways are past finding out, to lay His heavy hand on the family of Mr. Buxton and her sister, four of their little ones being called hence in the short space of three weeks.

Plashet House, Fourth Month, 26th, 1820.—My time has been so exceedingly occupied, as to prevent my writing, but I have gone through a great deal. My dearest brother and sister Buxton being so heavily afflicted, has brought me into very deep conflict, in short almost inexpressible ; still, through all, we may acknowledge that we have found the Lord to be gracious, for

assuredly He has been very near to help and support. Dearest Lord, we pray Thee, continue to have mercy upon us all ; and at this time of great sorrow, to regard us in our low estate, and to increase our faith according to its trial. Amen.

Fifth Month, 3rd.—Hard, very hard, as this trial has been, and is, yet there is abundant cause to bless, praise, and magnify the great and excellent name of our Lord, both for having given these precious children, and then taking them through His redeeming love into His Kingdom of Light, Life, Peace, and Glory. But what a proof that our hearts must not be set upon any temporal things.

In pursuing her labours at Newgate, Mrs. Fry had gradually learned many particulars of the Penal Colony of New South Wales. She found, that in point of fact, all the labours of her coadjutors, and her own, all systems of Prison Discipline, all efforts to reform the offender, were absolutely null and void, and but a wasteful expenditure both of time and money, so long as the female convicts were without shelter, without resource, and without protection, on their arrival in the land of exile. Rations, or a small allowance of provisions, sufficient to maintain life, they certainly had allotted them daily ; but a place to sleep in, or the means to obtain one, or necessary clothing for themselves, and when mothers, for their children, they were absolutely without. It was worse than useless, it was only an aggravation of their misery, to inculcate morality, and to raise the tone, and improve the tastes of these unhappy ones, and above all, to prove to them, that “ without Holiness no

man can see the Lord," whilst they were placed in circumstances, where existence could only be maintained at the price of virtue. Much of this was learned from the prisoners themselves, but every inquiry made upon the subject, confirmed their accounts ; still data were required, and more detailed information was wanted, when Mrs. Fry received a letter from the Rev. Samuel Marsden, Chaplain at New South Wales, dated Paramatta, February 23rd, 1819, more than confirming all that they had heard before of the miserable evils existing there. Here was a new field for exertion opened to her. Personally she was powerless to check this most impolitic and unchristian state of affairs ; but once knowing the facts, she rested not till they were brought before the proper authorities, and urged from time to time, until the iniquitous system was brought to an end.

This work of prison visiting was meanwhile steadily advancing in England. A Corresponding Committee was formed in London to answer inquiries and communicate information. Ladies' Associations were established in several places, and in others one or two individuals undertook the work of prison visiting ; but some degree of classification, employment, and moral influence, were all that the unassisted endeavours of the most zealous could effect. To carry out Mrs. Fry's views, solitude by night, complete classification, unceasing superintendence, compulsory occupation, regular instruction, and religious influence, were necessary to give any chance of reformation of character ; and to obtain these advantages, larger prisons, embracing more extensive districts, and conducted on a system of strict surveillance were required.

As applications for information became more numerous, and her interest in the subject increased, with her husband and her two elder daughters she undertook a journey, in the autumn of 1820, which would include visits to many of the principal jails and houses of correction in England.

Her method in visiting prisons was much the same in every instance. She had generally letters from official persons, or private friends, to the Visiting Magistrates of the prison she desired to see. Accompanied by the officers of the prison, any magistrates disposed to accompany her, or private individuals interested in it, she would go from yard to yard, from one ward to another, addressing the most minute inquiries to the jailor or turnkey ; and calculating the capabilities of the building for the greatest possible degree of improvement. The result of her observations she almost always stated afterward, in a letter addressed to those of local authority. Besides this, she endeavoured to form a Committee of Ladies, to visit the female prisoners, or she strove to induce at least one or two to undertake this Christian duty. She convinced the judgment of some—she touched the feelings of others—but seldom failed to bring to her purpose such of her own sex as she had selected, from being, in her opinion, suitable for the undertaking.

Mrs. Fry visited the prisons at Nottingham, Lincoln, Wakefield, Doncaster, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, Lancaster, and Liverpool, besides many others ; and in the greater number established Ladies' Committees for visiting the female prisoners. This journey led to important results, from the increased

experience and knowledge it gave her, and also tended to the diffusion of both interest and information on the subject of Prison Discipline. But overburthened as she already was with correspondence, the increase of letter-writing which resulted from it, became a serious evil, notwithstanding the valuable assistance she received from the Corresponding Committee of the Ladies' Newgate Association.

But neither duty nor pleasure had power to withdraw the mother's heart from her absent children amidst her onerous occupations she writes from Kendal to her little ones at home :

“ We are now nearly three hundred miles from you. It would make me very sorrowful, did I not know, that there is everywhere the same kind Providence to take care of us, and I hope he will permit us to meet again. We much enjoyed the dear boys' company from Darlington, and had them with us for a little while by the seaside. I have a large basket of shells, which I mean to divide amongst our collections when I come home, and now I am trying to make a beautiful collection of spars, which I think will delight you. I mean to give you each one piece. How much surprised I think you would have been, to see the country we have lately passed through. Mountains, covered at the top with clouds, and some with snow ; then such beautiful lakes and rivers, quite different to ours, running over rocks, and making such a noise ; some of them with salmon and trout in them ; and then the waterfalls, fine streams flowing from the tops of the mountains, over the rocks, that I think we may hear them miles off. How much I

should like to shew them to you. I hope some of you may see these wonderful and beautiful sights, and that it will lead you to love Him who made them."

After some doubt, and much deliberation, Mr. and Mrs. Fry concluded once more to spend the winter at St. Mildred's Court.

Again she was plunged into a vortex of incessant occupation, both personally and by letter. Various communications, from time to time, reached her from the Continent, relating to the condition of different prisons there, or requesting information on matters connected with prison discipline. About this time she opened a correspondence with St. Petersburg, through the medium of the late Walter Venning, Esq., who devoted himself to visiting and instructing the prisoners there. The Princess Sophia Mestchersky, and other ladies, had formed themselves into a committee with the best success, to visit the women confined in the five prisons of that capital.

After the death of Mr. Walter Venning, the correspondence then commenced was long continued with his brother. From that gentleman the following communication was received—peculiarly interesting at this time, when the great man and mighty potentate spoken of there has so lately passed from earth to appear before the tribunal of One infinitely mightier than he.

"I cheerfully comply with your desire, to be furnished with some of the most striking and useful points contained in your late beloved mother's correspondence with myself in Russia, relative to the improvement of the Lunatic Asylum in St. Petersburg. I the more

readily engage in this duty, because I am persuaded that its publication may, under the Lord's blessing, prove of great service to many such institutions on the Continent, as well as in Great Britain. I wish, indeed, that I could give you the letters themselves, but, unfortunately, they are inaccessible to me, being left behind in Russia, together with other important documents, under the care of a friend who is now unable to find them ; I have, however, recorded the substance of them in my journal, so that I shall be able to describe them without much difficulty.

“ I begin by stating that her correspondence was invaluable as regarded the treatment and management of both prisoners and insane persons. It was the fruit of her own rich practical experience communicated with touching simplicity, and it produced lasting benefits to those institutions in Russia. In 1827, I informed your dear mother, that I had presented to the Emperor Nicholas, a statement of the defects of the Government Lunatic Asylum, which could only be compared to our own Old Bedlam in London, fifty years since, and that the Dowager Empress had sent for me to the winter palace, when she most kindly, and I may say joyfully, informed me that she and her august son, the Emperor, had visited together this abode of misery, and were convinced of the necessity, not only of having a new building, but also of a complete reform in the management of the insane ; and, further, that the Emperor had requested her to take it under her own care, and to appoint me the governor of it. I must observe, that in the meantime, the old asylum was immediately improved, as much

as the building allowed, for the introduction of your dear mother's admirable system. Shortly after I had the pleasure of accompanying the Empress to examine a palace-like house, (Prince Sherbatoff's) having about two miles of garden, and a fine stream of water running through the grounds, only five miles from St. Petersburg. The next day, an order was given to purchase it. I was permitted to send the plan of this immense building to your dear mother for her inspection, and hints for improvement. Two extensive wings were recommended, and subsequently added, for dormitories. The wings cost about £15,000, and in addition to this sum from the government, the Emperor, who was always ready to promote the cause of benevolence, gave himself £3,000 for cast-iron window frames, recommended by your dear mother, as the clumsy iron bars, which had been used in the old Institution, had induced many a poor inmate, when looking at them, to say with a sigh, 'Sir, prison ! prison !' Your dear mother also strongly recommended, that all, except the violent lunatics, should dine together at a table covered with a cloth, and furnished with plates and spoons.

"The former method of serving out the food was most disgusting. This new plan delighted the Empress, and I soon received an order to meet her at the Asylum. On her arrival, she requested that a table should be covered, and then desired me to go round and invite the inmates to come and dine ; sixteen came immediately, and sat down ; the Empress approached the table, and ordered one of the upper servants to sit at the head of it, and to ask a blessing ; when he rose to do this, they

all stood up : the soup with small pieces of meat was then regularly served, and as soon as dinner was finished, they all rose up spontaneously, and thanked the Empress for her motherly kindness. I saw the kind Empress was deeply moved, and turning to me, she said, ' Mon cher, this is one of the happiest days of my life.' The next day, the number increased at table, and so it continued increasing. After your dear mother's return from Ireland, where she had been visiting, among other Institutions, the Lunatic Asylums, she wrote me a letter on the great importance of supplying the lunatics with the Scriptures. This letter deserved to be written in letters of gold ; I sent it to the Imperial Family ; it excited the most pleasing feelings, and marked approbation. The Court Physician, His Excellency Dr. Richl, a most enlightened and devoted philanthropist, came to me for a copy of it. It removed all the difficulty there had been, respecting the giving the Holy Scriptures to the inmates. I was therefore permitted to furnish them with copies in their various languages. It may be useful to state the result of this measure, which was considered by some, to be a wild and dangerous proceeding. I soon found groups collected together, listening patiently and quietly to one of their number reading the New Testament. Instead of disturbing their minds, it soothed and delighted them. I have witnessed a poor lunatic, a Frenchman, during an interval of returning reason, reading in his bed-room the New Testament, with tears running down his cheeks ; also a Russian priest, a lunatic, collecting a number together, while he read to them the Word of God.

“ On one occasion, I witnessed a most interesting scene. On entering the Institution, I found a young woman dying, her eyes were closed, and she was apparently breathing her last breath. I ordered one of the servants of the Institution to read very loud to her that verse, ‘ For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ Dr. K—— observed, ‘ Sir, she is almost dead, and it is useless.’ On my urging its being done, Lo ! to the astonishment of all present, she opened her eyes, and smiled ; I said, ‘ Is it sweet, my dear ?’ she nodded assent. ‘ Shall it be read to you again ?’ a smile and nod of the head followed. She evidently possessed her reason at that moment, and who can trace or limit the operations of the Holy Spirit, on the reading of God’s own word, even in her circumstances ?

“ When I received a letter from your mother, I always wrote it out in French, and presented it in that language to the Empress ; and when she had read it, it was very encouraging to see with what alacrity she ordered one of her secretaries to translate it into Russian, and then deliver it to me to be conveyed to the Asylum, and entered into the journal there for immediate adoption. I remember, on one occasion, taking a list of rules, at least fourteen in number, and the same day they were confirmed by the Empress ; and these rules introduced the following important arrangements, viz.—the treating the inmates, as far as possible, as sane persons, both in conversation and manners towards them—to allow them as much liberty as possible—to engage them daily to take

exercise in the open air—to allow them to wear their own clothes, and no uniform prison dress ; also to break up the inhuman system of permitting the promiscuous idle curiosity of the public, so that no one was allowed to see them without permission ; a room, on entering the Asylum, was prepared, for one at a time, on certain days, to see their relations. The old cruel system drew forth many angry expressions from the poor lunatics—‘ Are we then wild beasts to be gazed at ?’

“ The Empress made a present to the institution of a pianoforte ; it had also a hand organ, which pleased exceedingly the poor inmates ; and on one occasion the Empress, on entering the Asylum, observed that the inmates appeared unusually dull, when she called them near, and played herself on the hand organ an enlivening tune. Another important rule of your mother’s was, most strictly to fulfil whatever you promise to any of the inmates, and, above all, to exercise patience, gentleness, kindness, and love, towards them ; therefore, to be exceedingly careful as to the character of the keepers you appoint. These are some of the pleasing results of your mother’s work. The Dowager Empress, on one occasion, conversing about your mother, said—‘ How much I should like to see that excellent woman Madame Fry in Russia ;’ and often did I indulge that wish ; and what a meeting it would have been between two such devoted philanthropists as your mother and the Dowager Empress, who was daily devoting her time and fortune to doing good, daily visiting in person the various institutions of her own forming, and who once observed to me,

‘ We must work while we can, the time is short.’ In the second volume of the life of that beloved and devoted philanthropist, William Allen, is the lovely character of this extraordinary Princess truly delineated ; she possessed the rare secret of doing acts of love with love. Although the Empress was in her sixty-ninth year, I had the felicity of accompanying her in no less than eleven of her personal visits to the Lunatic Aylum, say from the 29th of February to the 11th of October 1828. On the 24th of October, thirteen days after, she died, to the deep-felt regret of the whole empire. Rozoff, a young lunatic, as soon as he heard it, burst into tears : she would visit each lunatic when bodily afflicted, and send an easy chair for one, and nicely-dressed meat for others, and weekly send from the palace, Sautern-wine, coffee, tea, sugar, and fruit, for their use.

“ Among the many striking features in your mother’s correspondence, her love to the Word of God, and her desire for its general circulation, were very apparent ; and evidently that sacred Book was the fountain whence she herself derived all that strength and grace to carry on her work of faith and labour of love which her Divine Master so richly blessed. As the result of my own observation and experience in foreign countries, I can fully bear witness, relative to very many deeply-interesting instances of spiritual good attendant on the free distribution of that inspired word ; nor shall I ever forget the solemn charge made by his late Highness Prince Charles Lieven to the Metropolitan of the Greek Church Seraphin, at the last meeting of the Russian Bible Soci-

ety, held at the St. Alexander's Monastery in St. Petersburg. Dr. Paterson, myself, and two or three other members were present, seated on one side of the table, and opposite the dignitaries of the Church, when, after much discussion, the pious Prince said most seriously to the Metropolitan—'How will you be able to answer, at the day of judgment, for the awful conduct of impeding the free circulation of the Scriptures to the people?' and further observed, that there never was a Tzar of Russia who forbade the Bible to the people. We all perceived that His Eminence was deeply affected. I can most fully corroborate this statement in reference to the Emperors Alexander and Nicholas, both of whom were desirous that the Bible should be freely circulated.

"In December 1827, when accompanying the Emperor Nicholas through the New Litoffsky Prison, he not only was well pleased in finding every cell fully supplied with the Scriptures, the rich result of his having confirmed the late Emperor Alexander's orders, to give the Scriptures gratis to all the prisoners, but on seeing some Jews in the prison, he said to me, 'I hope you also furnish these poor people with them, that they may become Christians: I pity them.' I witnessed a most touching scene, on the Emperor's entering the Debtor's Room: three old venerable grey-headed men fell on their knees, and cried, 'Father, have mercy on us;' the Emperor stretched out his hand in the peculiar grandeur of his manner, and said, 'Rise; all your debts are paid: you are at this moment free;' without knowing the amount of the debts, one of which was

considerable. I hope this feeble attempt to detail a little of your dear mother's useful work, may be acceptable, leaving you to make what use of it you may think proper.

"I remain, my dear friends, yours most sincerely,
"JOHN VENNING.

"Surrey House, Norwich, March 1847."

St. Petersburg was not the only continental city, with which communication on the subject of ladies visiting prisoners had now been opened.

At Turin, La Marquise de Barol, née Colbert, was assiduously occupied in this important work. This lady was a Roman Catholic, and had entered upon it, from a sense of duty. The Rev. Francis Cunningham, when travelling through that place, had obtained permission to see the prison, had there become acquainted with her, and opened a correspondence for her with his sister-in-law Mrs. Fry, which was maintained for many years. Letters were also received from Amsterdam, where those interested in the reformation of prisoners, were endeavouring to form a Society for the improvement of Prison Discipline, and Committees to visit the prisoners.

But although burthened, she was not overwhelmed; and the opening of another year finds her "watching unto prayer," and casting her cares upon her God.

Mildred's Court, First Month, 1st, 1821.—Having poured forth my soul in prayer, and having exhorted my household to live in the love and fear of the Lord, I have obtained some relief upon entering a new year, and

finishing another. I opened my Bible at these words, so consonant with the feelings of my heart, I quote them here, "Hear my prayer, and be merciful unto thine inheritance ; turn our sorrow into joy, that we may live, O Lord, and praise Thy name."

CHAPTER X.

DEATH OF HER SISTER, PRISCILLA GURNEY—RESETTLEMENT AT PLASHET, 1821—CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS—MACKINTOSH'S MOTION—BUXTON'S SPEECH—PRISON DISCIPLINE MEETING—MARRIAGE OF A DAUGHTER—NUMEROUS ENGAGEMENTS—DEATH OF A SISTER-IN-LAW—BIRTH OF HER YOUNGEST CHILD AND ELDEST GRANDCHILD—LETTER TO J. J. GURNEY, 1823—SALE OF PRISONERS' WORK—CONVICT SHIPS—ADVENTURE ON THE THAMES—ADMIRAL SIR BYAM MARTIN—CORRESPONDENCE AND OCCUPATIONS.

THERE are few things more sad than to enter a new year with coming sorrow on the heart, to see an affliction that appears inevitable casting its dark shadow on the future. From 1792, the year of Mrs. Gurney's death, her daughters had continued an unbroken band ; but the time was approaching when a breach was to be made amongst them. Priscilla, the youngest of the seven sisters, had been long in declining health, and the rapid increase of consumptive symptoms now foreboded, that "the silver cord was about to be loosed, and the bowl to be broken at the cistern."

To Mrs. Fry's nature, the loss of those she loved was peculiarly sorrowful. Had her faith not been proportionably strong, she could hardly have endured the trial. Her sister Priscilla, having, like herself, become a Friend from conviction, and like herself, being involved in the

solemn and arduous calling of the ministry, had added another link to their close natural tie ; one, probably, which from their great disparity in years, would hardly have existed as it did, but for this circumstance.

Priscilla Gurney was gifted with a singular finish and completeness of character, very gentle, yet very bright ; effective and accurate in all that she undertook ; she possessed exquisite taste and tact, with fine sense and appreciation of the beautiful ; she had assiduously cultivated her intellectual powers ; she was gifted in the use of the pencil, and excelled in that graceful and feminine but rare accomplishment, skill in needlework. In person she was slight, and rather below the middle stature ; without regular beauty, she was singularly pleasing, and refined in countenance ; with a bright complexion and sunny brown hair.

Beautifully descriptive are some lines written by a young lady in Ireland, upon becoming acquainted with her, when she visited that island in the character of a Minister amongst Friends—

“ Did such a mind beam through a homely face,
Beauty were not required to lend a grace ;
Did such a face veil an unworthy mind,
Our partial eyes would be to error blind ;
Sweet minist’ring spirit, with delight we see,
Inward and outward graces joined in thee !”

As the Earlham family were led into different dispensations in religion, she believed that Quakerism was the appointed one for herself, and gradually adopting their views and opinions, she became a decided Friend. This was not done hastily ; nor did it in the least interfere with the strong bond which bound her to those of her

family who had taken a different course ; and yet it is easy to understand, especially after she became a minister, what a deep mutual interest must have subsisted between her and her sister Elizabeth Fry. Earlham was her residence, with her other unmarried sisters and brothers ; nor did it cease to be their home at the marriage of their brother, Joseph John Gurney, in 1817.

From the Isle of Wight, where Priscilla Gurney had passed the winter preceding, on account of her declining health, she wrote in 1820 to her sister a letter, which claims here a place for being so descriptive of this sort of influence maintained by Elizabeth Fry over others, and the gift of helping so remarkably possessed by her. "Thou hast been much in my thoughts lately, my beloved sister, and I can hardly describe to thee, the flow of love and of deep interest which sometimes arises towards thee ; there is a certain understanding which I feel with thee, that I can hardly feel in the same way with any other mortal, except, perhaps, it may be with our dearest brother Joseph. We three do, I believe, intimately understand one another's paths—we know one another's conflicts—we have partaken in the same depths—we have been mercifully permitted, according to our different measures (for I feel my measure small indeed compared with thine), to partake of the same kind of spiritual consolations, and of the same deliverance from depths into heights. What a support, and stay, and refreshment, in short, what a mother hast thou been to us both ! I must confess my heart often turns towards thee with joy and with thankfulness, though thy path has been strewn with many crosses and many afflictions, yet so in pro-

portion has I firmly believe been the victory, which has been given thee through Christ our Saviour, to the great comfort and encouragement of many, as well as to thy own present, and may we not humbly trust, eternal peace and salvation! how fervently do I desire, that the blessing which has so eminently attended thee, may be in all things thy crown, thy rejoicing—that it may prosper thee in all thy ways.”

The summer of that year, Priscilla Gurney passed at Earlham. As the autumn advanced, she was removed to Cromer Hall, then the abode of her brother-in-law, Mr. Buxton; and with him, and her sister, Mrs. Buxton, she passed the few remaining months of her life, nursed with assiduous care by her sister Rachel, who had been devoted to her through the latter stages of her prolonged decline, and during the last few weeks attended also by Mrs. Fry. When all was over she writes to her family at home—

“Cromer Hall, Third Month, 25th, 1821.

“About nine o’clock this morning the scene closed, and our most tenderly beloved sister went to sleep in Jesus. The conflict of death was long upon her; I think it may be said from Third or Fourth day, to this morning. She has been sensible, evidently so, till late last evening, and her calm, quiet and patient state continued. I think every day her conflict diminished; she had nearly lost the power of speech; but when we were all collected round her last evening, about nine, she was heard by several to say, “Farewell, Farewell,” several times. Some one heard her add, “My love is

with you," and the last thing we could hear was, "O Lord!" In the morning she appeared very full of love—put out her hand to several of us—showed much pleasure in your uncle Buxton's being here, and tried to speak to him, but could not be understood—expressed her wish for reading, and from her feeling of love and fondness for the chapter, and some signs, we believed she meant the thirteenth of 1 Corinthians, and we had a very sweet animating time together, and afterwards our dear brother Fowell spoke very sweetly to her; and besides the Bible, she appeared to have some satisfaction in hearing other books read, as it has been her habit during her illness, just like mine when ill. She appeared to have finished her work, and had nothing to do but to die; her sweet spirit was quite at liberty to pass away the time in reading, and having I believe no headache, she could bear it, though she confined it to religious books, yet many of these were of an interesting nature; her hymns* interested her much—she liked Samuel Scott's Diary—Piety Promoted—Accounts of the Missions—Watts and How—and many other books of that description. I write thus particularly, because I thought you would wish to hear. I think her object in reading was gentle amusement, and at times edification—she was very particular not to read the Bible except she felt herself in rather a lively state. We were all by her when her prepared spirit left the body, and a sweet time it was; no struggle. After commending her to her Lord, and for His name's sake

* Hymns for the use of young persons, selected by Priscilla Gurney.

into glory, my brother Joseph in a little while quoted these words :—

“ One gentle sigh the fetters breaks,
We scarce can say they're gone,
Before the willing spirit takes
Its mansion near the throne.”

“ E. F.”

Miss Buxton, a near connexion and dear friend of the family, at the request of Mrs. Fry, added some additional particulars of the closing scene.

“ I at night retired to North Repps, so that I was not much of a burden to any, and the comfort it was to partake with them, and to be in the room with their most precious charge, I can never forget, or express. Thursday and Friday were not, that I recollect, particularly striking days, though so affecting; it was like being in the room with a peaceful, new-born babe—scarce a sound was heard, and little of what this world could give needed. The critical season of nursing over, a little liquid at intervals most gently and abstemiously administered, was all her tender state could bear—your mother was the most successful in getting that down—in compliance with her wishes, she took it to the last, even after her own mind had ceased to feel the duty or necessity of trying to do so; the light of a small fire was all that was admitted on her side of the room; the window was closely shaded, so that the reader (and she was continually read to) more often helped herself by fire light than from any aperture in the foldings of the window curtains. Your uncles Francis Cunningham and

Joseph John Gurney, and your aunt Catherine, as I understood, scarcely ever entered without her pointing to the reading seat, she seemed always to expect that they would have a Bible in their hands, and begin. They considered that she was soothed by reading, to the last night of her existence here ; that, of course, those alone could know, who were in the deepest sympathy with her, and who hung over her with devotedness of heart beyond my power of describing.

“I never can lose sight of that group, the cluster of sisters, the perfect stillness, the sacred and assured peace—not a sob arrested the ear, but exquisite tenderness pervaded the whole : your mother prayed, returned thanks to the Saviour, and committed her, and then the family, fervently and unreservedly into His care. Joseph prayed in the same strain—a pause, and Fowell wished that text to be repeated to her, ‘When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, etc., for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy one of Israel, thy Saviour ;’ your mother also repeated some of the most animating promises of God concerning the blessedness of a future state. ‘Thou canst not conceive, my love, the joys that will soon be thine ; the glories that are prepared for thee ; be encouraged to bear meekly the few remaining feelings of weakness and infirmity. Thy affliction will last but a moment longer, and endless happiness is in store for thee, and we will pray to the Saviour in his mercy to prepare us to follow thee, not to separate us long, but speedily to receive us all, and reunite us in His kingdom.

Mrs. Fry's return from Norfolk, was shortly followed by new and very different interests to those which had occupied her by the death-bed of her sister. The subject of Capital Punishments had become one of increasingly general interest and discussion ; opinions differed, and opposing views were entertained ; but it was no longer looked upon with indifference.

The Society "for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, and Reformation of Juvenile Offenders" was also actively at work. Many persons of influence had joined it, and zealously supported the plans of the committee.

On the 23rd of May, Sir James Mackintosh brought forward his motion "for mitigating the severity of punishment in certain cases of forgery, and the crimes connected therewith." Sir Samuel Romilly had, with the exception of Lord Nugent, and a very few others, stood almost unsupported in the Lower House ; now, the contest had become nearly equal, and Sir James Mackintosh's Bill was lost by a very small majority. It was on this occasion, that Mr. Buxton delivered his admirable speech upon Capital Punishment. Many had gone that night, doubtful as to the expediency of the measure proposed, but were convinced by Mr. Buxton's arguments, based as they were upon incontrovertible facts, varied calculations, and unquestionable evidence. Some had taken their seats, indifferent as to the question at issue ; his warm appeal to their humanity, and the responsibility of legislating for the lives of thousands, without having weighed the merits of the case, or considered the practical effects of punishment, aroused them from their apathy ; others, from a dread of change, and

a certain sort of adherence to the opinions of a party, unconnected with the merits or demerits of the opinions themselves, were startled by the delicate irony, with which he shewed the impracticability of the laws, and the strange devices resorted to, to evade their literal fulfilment. Excellently did he generalize the subject, when he said, "There is no one who will deny, that the laws of the land ought to be congenial with the feelings of the people. There was a time, we may suppose, in which this happy sympathy prevailed. But that period is long passed. During the last century, they have each fled from this point of concurrence ; the law in its enactments, and the people, in the tenor of their feelings. The people have made enormous strides in all that tends to civilize and soften mankind, while the laws have contracted a ferocity, which did not belong to them in the most savage part of our history, and to such extremes of distance have they proceeded, that I do believe there never was a law so harsh as British law, or so merciful and humane a people as the British people. And yet, to this mild and merciful people, is left the execution of that rigid and cruel law !"

Although the 23rd of May brought a defeat, it was a defeat nearly approaching to victory. Mrs. Fry had again cause to rejoice, when early in June, she witnessed the Freemason's Hall filled on occasion of the Meeting for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, and the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders. The *Times* of the 4th of June, gives an account of the Meeting. She was mentioned by many of the speakers in terms of high eulogium, and was loudly applauded when quitting

the Hall ; but not an allusion was made to this in her journal, or in any letters that have been found.

The Duke of Gloucester presided, supported by Lord John Russell, Lord Stanley (Earl of Derby), Lord Belgrave (Marquis of Westminster), Lord Calthorpe, the Bishop of Gloucester (Ryder), Sir James Mackintosh, Sir Thomas Baring, and many other individuals of rank and talent. Nobly was the cause advocated which had brought them together. Lord John Russell was almost prophetic in expectation, when he concluded a short but brilliant speech by expressing his belief, that our country was about to “ become distinguished for triumphs, the effect of which would be to save, and not to destroy ;” and that “ instead of laying waste the provinces of our enemies, we might begin now to reap a more solid glory in the reform of abuses at home, and in spreading happiness through millions of our own population.”

A domestic interest, closely touching her motherly feelings, now awaited Mrs. Fry ; but bringing with it peculiar difficulties—the marriage of one of her daughters.

The connexion was one in which she would have cordially rejoiced, had she not known that it would separate her child from that body of Christians to which she was herself so closely united. The rule of the discipline among the Society of Friends is, to disunite from membership those who marry persons not members of the Society. It is very strictly enforced, and to promote such connexions is looked upon as an act of delinquency on the part of parents or guardians.

Plashet, Eighth Month, 29th.—My beloved daughter, Rachel, was married last Fifth day, the 23rd, at Runc-

ton,* by my brother-in-law, Francis Cunningham. Great as the trial certainly has been, and is, to my natural feelings of her leaving the Society of Friends, yet I am of opinion that whatever she may eventually settle into, we have done right in not preventing this connexion, for my secret belief is, that it is for good, and a providential opening for her ; though I am fully alive to the pains and disadvantages attending her marrying out of the Society of Friends.

O Lord ! Thou knowest that I love Thee and Thy cause above all things. I desire to serve Thee, and if Thou art pleased to continue to make use of me, may I be kept clean and bright by Thy power and fit for Thy service ; and Oh, as Thou hast been pleased to enlarge the heart of Thy handmaid towards those who love and fear Thy name of other denominations, and that she dared not *prevent* her child being united to one of these—oh, sanctify Thy self this union, strengthen them by Thy might in the inner man, to do Thy will, whatever it may lead them into ; that their light may so shine before men, that they, seeing their good works, may glorify Thee, our Father, who art in Heaven. Amen, and Amen.

The following passages from her journal show something of the winter's occupation, which was passed at Plashet, from whence Mrs. Fry visited London once, frequently twice, in the week :—

First Month 9th, 1822.—My brother Buxton, Patty

* To Francis Cresswell, second son of Francis Cresswell, of Cresswell, Northumberland.

Smith,* and I, went to town. She and I visited Cold Bath Fields and Clerkenwell Prisons, with the magistrates, and applied for a matron to be appointed.

Second Month, 8th.—A very busy town morning; visited Newgate, Milbank Penitentiary, and Tothill Fields Prison; our friends the Vennings, and William Allen, dined here.

15th.—I went early to town, visited Newgate, Giltspur Street Compter, and Clerkenwell Prison.

Hampstead, Fourth Month, 11th.—We have been staying here a few days with my beloved brother and sister Hoare, as I wish to cultivate that love which is so precious between our two families. The excellent order of her children I rejoice to see, but it makes me low about mine; I fear that I am not equally doing my part towards them. Lord, make up my many deficiencies!

16th.—The day to me rather disturbed. I attended Newgate. Visited Sophia Vansittart, and came home by four, to be ready to receive Lord and Lady Torrington and the Benjamin Shaws, also my brother Buxton.

With May came the Friends' yearly meeting, occupying and fatiguing in no small measure; this was followed by the ladies' annual prison meeting; but she acknowledges "help being granted," and to her own feelings "way marvellously made for her in things she exceedingly dreaded."

But there was an admixture of much enjoyment at times, attendant on her peculiar vocation—nothing

* An early friend in the days of Earlham's girlhood, daughter to William Smith, for many years M.P. for Norwich.

greater than the intercourse it led to with the excellent of the earth, from the highest to the lowest, of different countries and various denominations.

During the visit to England of the Prince and Princess Royal of Denmark, they inspected many of the public institutions and charities, and took a lively interest in objects that conduced to the moral and religious welfare of the people. It was therefore a particularly-gratifying circumstance to Mrs. Fry, that one morning, when paying her respects at Gloucester House, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester presented her to the Princess, who was also there. A few days afterwards, the family at Plashet were surprised by an intimation, that the Princess would that morning honour them with her company to breakfast. She came, and remained some hours. This occasion was the commencement of that intercourse which continued at intervals till the close of Mrs. Fry's life.

In June Mrs. Fry was suddenly summoned to Earham, in consequence of the death of Jane, the wife of her brother Joseph John Gurney. She describes her own feelings in viewing the sorrowing family party assembled there.

Earham, 21st.—Day by day strength is granted to us, to my beloved brother and his poor mother-in-law, though the late afflicting event casts a cloud over all temporal things. Some of the party appear wonderfully raised in spirit and strong in faith. I rejoice and am glad for them; for myself I feel peculiarly unworthy, and as if far behind some others in spiritual advancement, and true dedication; I am ready to be reminded

of that text—"The first shall be last, and the last first." Still I trust there is a following on to know the Lord amidst many infirmities.

Plasbet, Eighth Month 20th, 1822.—Yesterday was our wedding-day, we have been married twenty-two years; how many dispensations have I passed through since that time! how have I been raised up and cast down! How has a way been made in the depths, and a path in the mighty waters; I have known much of good health, and real sickness; great bodily suffering, particularly in my confinements, and deep depression of spirits.

I have known the ease of abundance of riches, and the sorrow and perplexity of comparative deprivation; I have known to the full I think, the enjoyment of domestic life; even what might be called the fulness of blessing, and also some of its most sorrowful and most painful reverses. I have known the aboundings of the unspeakable, soul-satisfying, and abounding joy of the Lord; and I have been brought into states, when the depths had well nigh swallowed me up. I have known great exaltation amongst my fellow-mortals, also deep humiliation. I have known the sorrow of some most tenderly beloved, being taken from me by death; and others given me—hitherto more given than taken.

What is the result of all this experience? It is even, that the Lord is gracious and very merciful, that His compassions fail not, but are renewed every morning; and may I not say that His goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life? Though He has at times permitted me amidst many and unspeakable blessings to pass through unutterable

sorrows, known only to the full extent by Him and my own soul, yet He hath been an All-sufficient helper; His right hand hath sustained me and held me up, blessed be His name for ever! He hath never forgotten to be gracious, nor hath He shut up His tender mercies from me. May I not indeed raise up my Ebenezer, and acknowledge that there is indeed "no God like our God," and that it is indeed a most blessed thing to serve Him, even if it be by the way of the cross, for He is indeed worthy to be served, worshipped and obeyed, now and for ever. Above all, I pray for myself, that whatever dispensations I may yet pass through, nothing may separate me from His love, or hinder me from His service, but that I may be increasingly and entirely devoted to Him in heart, mind, and spirit, through the help of my most dear and blessed Redeemer.

On the 1st of November, her eleventh and youngest child was born, and on the same day her eldest grandchild.

Plasnet, Eleventh Month, 7th.—Words fall utterly short of expression for the unmerited mercy which has been shown us. On the night of the 30th, I had to pass through a very deep conflict of spirit, comfort appeared to fail, deep discouragement and great fear took hold of me; I felt I had a baptism to be baptized with, and how was I straitened until it was accomplished (if the servant dare allude to drinking even at seasons of the cup the Master drank of), but after a time the conflict ceased, sweetness, trust, love, and confidence, took place of it. I felt bound to have my husband, children, my

dear sister Gurney, and Susan Pitchford, besides such of the maids as liked to join us, collected together, when, after reading, I poured forth my soul in fervent prayers for my dearest Rachel and myself in our time of conflict, for help spiritually, and naturally for tender mercy. And how striking to me it was, in little more than twenty-four hours—only fourteen hours apart—Rachel and myself had each a darling boy born. Both of us very graciously and wonderfully helped.

Among the strongest interests of the opening year was the marriage of Mrs. Fry's youngest brother, Daniel Gurney, of North Runcton, to the Lady Harriet Hay.* The contrast of his circumstances of prosperity, with those of her brother Joseph John Gurney, treading the lonely path of widowhood, touched her closely; and after writing to one brother, she thus addressed the other:—

“Plashet, First Month, 8th, 1823.

“MY DEAREST JOSEPH,

“Having just written to one dear brother, feeling and expressing my sympathy in his joys, I think I shall better conclude my morning's work, by also telling thee how much I have been with thee in mind in thy low estate. I feel for thee and sympathize with thee; but if a poor fellow-mortal feels so tenderly for another, how must it be with Him, whose love, pity, and tender compassion are unbounded. Surely thy Lord and His Comforter will be found very near to thee, in His own

* Daughter of William, fifteenth Earl of Erroll.

time healing thy wounds. I believe, as we may rejoice and return thanks for our dear brother's present fulness of enjoyment, so we may also for thee in thy privations ; because all is permitted in tender mercy and loving kindness. I doubt not that thou hast many pains to bear, by night and by day, as the desolation produced by thy loss would naturally occasion ; but I trust patience will have its perfect work, and so tend further to purify, and redeem, and fit thee for thy Master's work. I wish in any way we could help or comfort thee ; wouldest thou like Kate to pay thee a visit for two or three weeks ? or is there any thing we could do to cheer thee ?

“ We are going on comfortably here ; my darling baby a considerable object of interest. I am once more moderately launched, in public as well as private life ; I am therefore much engaged, and although often fagged, yet not really overdone, I take so much care of myself. There has been a feeling of peace in entering Meetings and the prison cause again, as if the calling to these things was continued. How I desire a simple, faithful, watchful walking, with my eye single to the Lord. My path calls for cautious steppings, and peculiarly needs the best light—may it be granted me !

“ Many begin to come here after me, as I cannot leave my babe to go to them.

“ Farewell, my much loved brother,

“ Thy nearly attached sister, E. FRY.”

At this time the quantity of needle-work executed by the prisoners in Newgate had become considerable. In

order to dispose of it, a sale was occasionally resorted to. It was held in some public room in London, the ladies of the Newgate Association selling, at different tables, the various proceeds of the prisoners' industry. It was conducted very much on the same plan as the sales of fancy work, since so common for the benefit of charities. The sum of three hundred and nineteen pounds was realized during the spring of this year.

In addition to Newgate, the Borough Compter and Giltspur Street Compter were regularly attended by members of the Ladies' Association ; Whitecross Street prison was also occasionally visited by them. The arrangements first made by Mrs. Fry had now borne the test of six years' experience, and the results were highly satisfactory, not only in those prisons which may be supposed to have been under her personal superintendence, but also in the many prisons in the different parts of this kingdom, and on the Continent, where ladies had formed committees to visit the female prisoners. At the time of which we are writing, the subject of prison discipline was but imperfectly understood, though it was generally acknowledged that classification was necessary, that the most abandoned characters might not associate with the comparatively uncontaminated. Employment and instruction were considered essential for every class of prisoners, and it was with peculiar pleasure, Mrs. Fry saw the principle admitted, and ultimately become the law of the land, that women, when in prison, were to be placed under the charge of female officers. She was anxious that the same system should be carried out by the appointment of matrons on board the convict

ships, where, with the exception of the Naval Surgeon Superintendent, the women were placed under the care of *sailors*. The masters of these vessels as well as their crews had the power of free communication with them, not only during the voyage, but whilst the vessel lay in the River Thames, which was frequently the case for weeks together. To separate one class of prisoners effectually from another, was impossible in these floating prisons; if they did not meet when below, nothing could prevent them from associating with whom they pleased when on deck. There was no one to teach them to read—no religious instruction. There was no adequate provision for the preservation of cleanliness, and their clothing was insufficient.

Since the *Maria* had been visited in 1818, as each successive season brought the sailing of a female convict ship, the subject obtained a large share of Mrs. Fry's attention. Amongst those who assisted her in her efforts to improve the condition of these ships, the late Mrs. Pryor was one most especially devoted to the work; with the exception of one ship, (the unfortunate *Amphitrite*), she visited every transport which sailed from England with female convicts, until prevented by the sickness which terminated in her death, in 1841.

This was not done without much fatigue and inconvenience; frequent exposure to weather in open boats, and occasionally to danger. On one occasion, Mrs. Pryor and Mrs. Fry were placed in a situation of considerable alarm, from which they were relieved, by the interposition of the present Harbour Master at Ramsgate. Both the objects of his kind consideration having passed hence,

and the particulars of the circumstance being imperfectly retained in the memory of those to whom they related it, we are indebted to him for the following account:—

“It was on a fine sultry day, in the summer of 1821, that I was racing up the River Thames, in the command of the Ramsgate Steam Packet, *Eagle*, hoping to overtake our Margate competitors, the *Victory* and *Favourite* steamers, and bringing them nearer to view as we rounded the points of the reach of the river. It was in the midst of this excitement, that we encountered one of those sudden thunder squalls, so common in this country, and which passing rapidly off with heavy rain, leave behind them a strong and increasing northerly gale. I was looking out ahead, pleasing myself with the reflection that we were the fastest vessel against a head wind, and should certainly overtake our Margate friends, when upon entering Long Reach, about two miles below Purfleet, I saw a boat labouring with very little effect against the gale, and with a whole ebb-tide just making to add to their difficulties. In this boat were two ladies, in the close habit of the Society of Friends, evidently drenched with the heavy shower which had overtaken them. I was then a dashing, high-spirited sailor; but I had always a secret admiration of the quiet demeanour of that Society, and occasionally had some of them passengers with me, always intelligent and inquiring, and always pleased with any information a seaman could extend to them. Well, here was a dilemma! To stop, would spoil my chase, in which most of my passengers were

as eager as myself, but to go on, and pass two ladies in such a situation ! I passed the word softly to the engineer ; desired the mate to sheer alongside the boat carefully ; threw the delighted rowers a rope ; and before the passengers were fully aware that we had stopped the engines, the ladies were on board, the boat made fast astern, and the Eagle again flying up the Thames. I have those two persons strongly, nay, indelibly stamped upon my mind's eye. The one I had last assisted on board, still held my hand, as she thanked me, with dignified but beautiful expression—'It is kind of thee, Captain, and we thank thee. We made no sign to thee ; having held up our handkerchiefs to the other packets, we did not think we should succeed with thee.' I assured them that I could not have passed them under such circumstances, and called the stewardess to take them below into the ladies' cabin and see to their comfort. They had been well cloaked, and had not suffered so much as I had anticipated.

"The gale had cleared away the rain, and in a very short time they came upon deck again, one of them was Mrs. Fry, and she never lost an opportunity of doing good. I saw her speaking to some of my crew who were looking very serious as she offered them tracts, and some of them cast a side glance at me for my approval or otherwise. I had some little dislike to sects then, which I thank God left me in riper years—but who could resist this beautiful, persuasive, and heavenly-minded woman. To see her, was to love her ; to hear her, was to feel as if a guardian angel had bid you follow that teaching, which could alone subdue the temptations

and evils of this life, and secure a Redeemer's love in eternity ! In her you saw all that was attractive in woman, lit up by the bright beams of philanthropy ; devoting the prime of life, and health, and personal graces, to her Divine Master's service ; and I feel assured that much of the success which attended her missions of mercy, was based upon that awe which such a presence inspired. It was something to possess a countenance which portrayed in every look the overflowings of such a heart, and thus a humble instrument in the hands of Divine Providence, she was indeed highly favoured among women.

“ She told me that her companion Mrs. Pryor and herself had been down to Gravesend to take leave of the unfortunate women (convicts) on board a ship bound to the settlements, and gave me so touching a description of their behaviour, that I volunteered to take charge of any thing for her at any time, or render her any service in my power in my voyages. When about to land, her anxiety to make some pecuniary recompence was very great, but I would not allow her to do so. Mrs. Fry never forgot me when she came near our locality ; I saw her from time to time, the earthly tabernacle failing, but the same spirit lighting up with animation her untiring energies. It was an honour to know her in this world. May we follow her to the society of the accepted and blessed in that which is to come !

“ K. B. MARTIN.”

“ *Ramsgate, February 1847.*”

On another occasion, Mrs. Fry reached Deptford late

in the afternoon of a very tempestuous March day. A female convict ship was under sailing orders for the next morning, and it being after office hours, she went to the private house of Admiral Young, to request him to send her off to the ship. By the time she returned on shore, it was quite dark, and the wind and rain to which she had been exposed seemed to make a little rest and refreshment almost indispensable before she set off homewards. But she resisted all the invitations of Admiral Young and his family to remain with them ; assigning as a reason that she had left one of her children seriously ill, to whom she was anxious to hasten back. This little incident left a deep impression on their minds ; “ that such a claim on a mother’s heart, had not been permitted to interfere with that, to which she had pledged her best energies and powers.”

The sphere of labour in which Mrs. Fry and her friends were embarked, required not merely the exercise of womanly tenderness, but also of courage and energy, but they found that He, who had so wonderfully cleared a path for them in Newgate, did not desert them in the still more difficult work which was now before them. There was a remarkable adaptation of talents and ability for the execution of the various branches of the undertaking in different members of the Committee ; and many who have not come so prominently forward, as those just named, then began their equally useful, though less conspicuous exertions, and may still be found at their posts, with untiring energy, notwithstanding the lapse of time and increase of years, preparing that portion of the convict’s outfit, which is entrusted to the

Committee to provide, and carrying out the regulations framed so long ago.

Soon after the ladies first visited these ships, the women ceased to be received on board at Deptford, the ships being moored in a less frequented part of the river, below Woolwich. The mode in which they were brought on board, long continued to be highly objectionable; they arrived from the country in small parties, at irregular intervals, having been conveyed on the outside of stage coaches, by smacks, or hoys, or any conveyance that offered, under the care of a turnkey. Often have the ladies, when engaged in their interesting occupation, seen a person of this description come alongside in a wherry, with a group of unfortunate creatures under his charge, wayworn and ill, or perhaps a solitary outcast brought upon deck, lamenting her misfortunes in the broad dialect of some far distant county—a small bundle of insufficient clothing being frequently the only preparation for the long voyage before her. In some instances, their children, equally destitute as themselves, accompanied them; in others, their sufferings were increased by sudden separation from their young infants. Often did Mrs. Pryor, and her friend and companion Lydia Irving, quit these scenes, in which they had passed nearly the whole day, not to return to their homes, but to go to Whitehall, to represent such cases, that the necessary letters should be dispatched without the loss of a post, ordering the restoration of these poor nurslings to their mothers, before the ship should sail.

In addition to these evils, the women were almost invariably more or less ironed, sometimes cruelly so. On

board the *Mary Ann*, in 1822, Mrs. Pryor complained that "the prisoners from Lancaster Castle arrived, not merely handcuffed, but with heavy irons on their legs, which had occasioned considerable swelling, and in one instance, serious inflammation." There is in existence a list of the names of women, received in irons, on board the *Brothers*, which sailed in 1823; it was taken down at the time, by direction of Mrs. Fry, in order that a representation might be made upon the subject to the Government. By this list, it appears that twelve arrived on board handcuffed. Eleven women from Lancaster were sent to the ship "iron-hooped round their legs and arms, and chained to each other. The complaints of these women were very mournful; they were not allowed to get up or down from the coach, without the whole being dragged together; some of them had children to carry—they received no help, or alleviation to their suffering." A woman from Cardigan travelled with a hoop of iron round her ankle, until she arrived at Newgate, where the sub-matron insisted on having it taken off. In driving the rivet towards her leg to do so, it gave her so much pain, that she fainted under the operation. She stated, that during a lengthened imprisonment, she wore an iron-hoop round her waist; from that, a chain connected with another hoop round her leg, above the knee, from which, a second chain was fastened to a third hoop round her ankle: in the hoop that went round her waist, were, she said, two bolts or fastenings, in which her hands were confined when she went to bed at night, which bed was only of straw.

Such were a few of the scenes, into which Mrs. Fry was

introduced, in this department of her important labours, for the good of the suffering and the sinful of her own sex.

A simple tribute of affectionate remembrance, from a convict who was transported in 1823, on board the *Brothers*, should be recorded in referring to that ship, a calabash from the garden of Hester —. The present referred to, reached Mrs. Fry's family since she was taken from them, accompanied by a message of gratitude. The donor recalled herself to their memory, as having been school-mistress in Newgate, and, that when she left the prison, Mrs. Fry had given her a pound of lump sugar, and half a pound of tea. Hester — has been married twenty years, in New South Wales—is very comfortably established, and wished her former benefactress to be informed, that she has “plenty of pigs and fowls, buys her tea by the chest, and that the patchwork quilt which now covers her bed, was made of the pieces given her by the ladies when she embarked.”

On board the convict ships, as at Newgate, the ladies had to contend with difficulties which were integral parts of the system, and which they were wholly unable to remove ; it was in both instances a simple practical endeavour on their part, to do what they could under existing circumstances, to obviate evils and promote order and good conduct. In this they were indebted to Admiral Young, of the Dockyard at Deptford, for much kind co-operation and assistance in his department, of fitting out the convict ships. The introduction of patchwork, as an employment for the women, was the happy suggestion of this gentleman, when conversing

with Mrs. Fry on the difficulty of supplying them with employment during the voyage; he thought it would afford the largest amount of occupation in the smallest compass.

She had also frequent communication with Admiral Sir Byam Martin, Comptroller of the Navy from 1813 to 1832. This was an important and onerous office, but one which in consequence of alterations in the constitution of the Admiralty, no longer exists. From him she received courteous and unfailing attention; he appreciated her motives, and considered the arrangements proposed by her, to be not only humane, but judicious.

The first advances towards improvement in the female convict ships, were made under Sir Byam Martin's direction, and very much was accomplished during the time he continued in office.

Her efforts to ameliorate the condition of these objects of her care, were not confined to the period of the voyage. She urged upon Lord Bathurst, the Secretary for Home Affairs, through the medium of the Right Honourable Wilmot Horton, the importance of a place of shelter for female convicts on arriving in Van Dieman's Land,

Her proposal was, that a building should be raised by the labour of male convicts, of such material as the country should afford, to receive the women—that a matron should be appointed under Government control, an adult and children's school be established, and that from this asylum, according to their conduct, they should be passed into domestic service. Mrs. Fry moreover urged the necessity of furnishing decent clothing (not

particoloured) for the voyage, their own raiment to be restored upon their entering service.

To these, and similar communications, prompt and polite consideration was almost invariably paid ; and in many instances, the suggestions they contained, met with the cordial support and co-operation of those to whom they were addressed. Nor was it for the sinners and outcasts only, that Mrs. Fry pleaded : to the poor and needy her ear was always open ; and she would “ humble herself,” for so she felt it, to ask that for them of her family and friends, which it was not in her own power to bestow.

The letters she received on other topics were almost innumerable, from all classes of society, claiming advice, sympathy, or assistance. Many a strange tale of sin, as well as wrong, has died with her ; whilst in other instances she has obtained, when she could not bestow, the needful succour. She had remarkably this talent of adaptation—to find the right person for the right thing : this led to many valuable appointments, both at home and abroad, and to placing numerous persons in situations exactly suited to their talents. This happy faculty pervaded all her arrangements—from the recommendation of a Government officer, to choosing collectors for the Bible Association, of which, after a short time, she effected the establishment at East Ham and Plashet.

CHAPTER XI.

SERIOUS ILLNESS—BRITISH LADIES' SOCIETY—ESTABLISHMENT OF
MANOR HALL ASYLUM AND SCHOOL OF DISCIPLINE AT CHELSEA
—BRIGHTON—DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETY THERE—COAST GUARD
LIBRARIES—DAGENHAM—PLASHET—MARRIAGE OF HER ELDEST
SON—HANNAH MORE—CONVICT SHIPS, AND ADMIRAL YOUNG.

WITH the early spring of 1824, Mrs. Fry's health completely failed, accompanied with much nervous depression. At Blackheath, where she was staying with her married daughter, she describes her own state.

First day, 15th.—Yesterday, after a very weak and faint morning, I attended our British Ladies' Society Meeting;* it was surprising, even to myself, to find what had been accomplished! How many prisons are now visited by ladies, and how much is done for the inhabitants of the prison-house, and what a way is made for their return from evil. It is marvellous in my eyes, that a poor instrument should have been the apparent cause of setting forward such a work. Deep as my interest has certainly been in the destitute and forlorn, yet how much more, both in time and heart, have I been occupied with my own family. I fancy that my natural affections are very acute; and that if it had not

* British Ladies' Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners.

pleased a kind Providence to lead me into some other services, and in His tender mercy to bless me in them, I think there would at times have been great danger of my being pressed down out of measure by home cares.

The Meeting alluded to was the third anniversary of the "Ladies' British Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners." It had been formed as a central point for communication, and for mutual assistance between the various associations engaged in visiting female prisoners in different parts of England; also for the purpose of corresponding with those persons on the Continent, who interested themselves in these subjects.

The Duchess of Gloucester honoured the Society with her patronage; many distinguished names were found amongst its vice-patronesses—some of these ladies had visited the prisons in their own neighbourhoods; and the Duchess of Gloucester, when on a journey with the Princess Augusta, had condescended personally to inspect the state of a prison on their way. On the present occasion, Mrs. Fry and her friends were encouraged by the fact, that some of the arrangements which had been adopted by them, and found to be peculiarly useful, had become the law of the land, and were enforced in the principal prisons of the kingdom, in consequence of an Act of Parliament passed during the preceding session. The most important of these regulations was the appointment of female officers; increased means afforded for religious instruction; and compulsory employment.

The Convict Ship Committee was, and still is, a branch of this society.

The necessity of asylums for the reception of dis-

charged prisoners claimed at this time the attention of the Ladies' Association. The report of the year 1824, mentions the Shelter for this purpose at Dublin, and a Refuge at Liverpool. The establishment of similar institutions quickly followed in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe.

In 1822, a small house for sheltering some of the most hopeful cases of discharged prisoners, was opened in Westminster, under the name of Tothill Fields Asylum. It owed its existence to the Christian benevolence of one lady—Miss Neave. She had consecrated her time and purse to this important object, which was first suggested to her mind during a drive with Mrs. Fry, thus related by herself:—"A morning's expedition with dear Mrs. Fry made me at once resolve to add my help, if ever so feebly, to the good cause. I distinctly remember the one observation made. I can call to mind at this moment the look and tone so peculiar, so exclusively her's who spoke—'Often have I known the career of a promising young woman, charged with a first offence, to end in a condemned cell! Was there but a Refuge for the young offender, my work would be less painful.' That one day's conversation upon these subjects, and in this strain, laid the foundation of our prisoners' home."

The inmates, at first, were only four in number; in 1824, they had increased to nine; at the present time, under the name of "The Royal Manor Hall Asylum," it contains about fifty young women, and since its first establishment many hundreds, destitute and homeless, have been received within its walls.

There was another class of persons who claimed the

attention of the ladies of the British Society at this meeting—the vicious and neglected little girls, so numerous in London, early hardened in crime, who, whether they had or had not been imprisoned, had no chance of reformation at home, yet were too young to be placed with advantage in any existing asylum. Before the next anniversary, a School of Discipline, for the reception of such children was opened at Chelsea, where, withdrawn from their former associates, they might be trained to orderly and virtuous habits. The idea first occurred to Mrs. Fry, when conversing in the yard of Newgate, with her friend, Mrs. Benjamin Shaw, on the extreme difficulty of disposing of some very juvenile prisoners about to be discharged. She then begged Mrs. Shaw to consider the subject, and to draw up some plan for the purpose. This lady immediately applied herself to the important work, nor did she relax in her exertions, until she had seen the School of Discipline firmly established, and its value tested by the experience of years.

Mrs. Fry was anxious that Government should adopt this Institution for receiving abandoned female children, and addressing Sir Robert Peel, then Secretary of State, on the subject, he warmly encouraged the design as one “capable of effecting much good.” He recommended its being supported by the subscriptions of individuals unconnected with public establishments, and enclosed a liberal donation from himself.

Both these Institutions continue to be very important auxiliaries of the British Ladies’ Society, receiving considerable pecuniary assistance from its funds, in consideration of the many individuals placed in them, by its

sub-committee for the Patronage of Discharged Female Prisoners.

But neither these nor any existing establishments adequately meet the needs of the many applicants discharged from the London prisons ; and until some further refuge for such is established, the labour bestowed upon them, during their imprisonment, must remain, in too many instances, an incomplete work, whether begun by the chaplain, the officers of the gaol, or the ladies of the Visiting Association. Earnestly and unflinchingly did Mrs. Fry urge this topic. She grieved to know, that persons not utterly hardened, not wholly given over to depravity, who desired to retrace the downward road along which they had travelled, continually found themselves without resource, without encouragement, exposed to the condemnation of the world, or renewed temptations to vice. She felt, that until every unhappy fallen one, without exception, had the opportunity afforded her of repentance and amendment of life, England, as a Christian country, had not fulfilled the injunction of our blessed Lord—"As I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

The change to Blackheath failing to produce the desired effect, and Mrs. Fry becoming more and more of an invalid, she was removed to Brighton, where she gradually regained her strength. It was during this period, that the important and difficult subject of assisting the poorer inhabitants of Towns wisely and well, forced itself upon her attention. She was often distressed at Brighton by the multitude of applicants for relief. This was not confined to beggars by profession,

who infested the streets, following carriages and foot-passengers with clamorous importunity, but extended to the resident poor, many of whom had acquired the habit of asking assistance at the houses, not only of the inhabitants, but the visitors to the place. It was difficult for the former, but almost impossible for the latter, to discover their true condition, whether their poverty was real or assumed, and if real, whether caused by improvidence and idleness on their own part, or whether the result of misfortune and providential infliction.

Not long before, she had made the acquaintance of Dr. Chalmers, and learned something of his views as to the best method of assisting the lower classes, and encouraging them in habits of self-dependence, industry, and forethought. He had explained to her his experience of Provident Societies, and the advantage of small deposits being made by the working classes when earning any thing beyond a bare sufficiency, for the time of sickness or old age. This subject had arrested her attention, as one of great importance; for she saw that very much might be done towards ameliorating the condition of the lower orders, by arousing them to exertion, and teaching them how to assist themselves. But whilst she perceived all the advantages that would arise from such a system, she was not prepared to yield one point to those political economists, who theorised on the wants of the poor as a mechanical principle, which should be left to find its own level. Her heart was solemnly impressed with the duty of almsgiving—of “providing for the sick and needy,” in the literal acceptation of the words. “The poor” were, to her feelings, a sacred trust committed to the faithful

and obedient, to receive at their hands, tenderness, consideration, and relief, as the case might be. She considered the commands of Scripture to be imperative ; and the privilege to be a high one, which permitted him to whom the Lord had given more abundantly, " to do good, and to communicate, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Her mind being occupied by this subject, and she in a remarkable manner possessing the quality of bringing good into action, and practically applying principles, the truth of which had commended themselves to her own mind ; it was but a probable result of the mendicancy, poverty, and imposture, she witnessed at Brighton, that the information she had acquired from Dr. Chalmers should occur to her as affording a probable remedy for these evils.

In a country village, we generally find the squire, the clergyman, and their families, to be the medium of almsgiving. Children are educated, clothing clubs established, and the sick supplied with those little comforts so important to them. In suburban districts the resident gentry frequently unite in caring for their poorer neighbours. Of later years, field-gardens, or allotments, have been introduced ; arrangements by which time is available for profit, and the hours of the labourer, which he is entitled to employ for his own advantage, may produce to him a species of capital.

In most towns, in manufacturing districts, and where masses of people congregate, the case is different. There the most importunate, the least diffident—the mother of a family, who prefers gossiping and wandering about, to

the care of her home and children, obtains the almsgiving of the more wealthy. Encouragement is held out to begging and improvidence, for the giver, satisfied in having "relieved the poor," asks not whether his charity has tended to good, or increased evil. Some may inquire into the circumstances and character of the applicant, before extending relief, but this is the exception, not the rule; and the same thing may occur, as in a case of absolute imposture, the most intrusive obtain assistance, whilst the sufferer, who shrinks from begging, who struggles to exist upon his own resources, has nothing beyond the coarse hard fare of poverty, unfit for illness, and unlikely to induce restoration to health.

Brighton appeared exactly the field for working a District Visiting Society. There was no lack of benevolent feeling, and abounding affluence was to be found there; but the former was frequently misdirected and the latter misapplied. A Provident Society had been in operation for some years, but this touched only one part of the evil.

It was no easy matter to unite in the same object, persons wholly differing in opinion, especially on religious matters; but without co-operation the desired end could not be effected, and after some delays, and much discouragement, the Brighton District Society was established under the patronage of the Bishop of Chichester. The Earl of Chichester President; the Dean of Salisbury, the Rev. H. M. Wagner, Viscount Molesworth, Sir Edward Kerrison, and Mr. Kemp, amongst the Vice-Presidents. The objects of the Society were stated to be, "The encouragement of industry and frugality among the poor, by

visits at their own habitation ; the relief of real distress, whether arising from sickness or other causes ; and the prevention of mendicity and imposture."

In January, 1825, the First Annual Report was given to the public. The Society embraced two objects : "The relief of real distress, and a system of small deposits, upon the plan of Savings Banks, which was encouraged by a present premium, in order to induce the labouring classes to try to lay by a little store for their own necessities." To accomplish the desired ends, Visitors were found or offered themselves to go from house to house, and become acquainted personally with the character and circumstances of their occupants.

"The smallest pittance, as a deposit for rent, or clothing, or fuel, by being often repeated, may prove to the poorest, that it is within their power effectually to help themselves, by such habits of frugality and resolution." The personal intercourse of the Visitors with the poor, is a most important branch of the subject ; it tends to goodwill on both sides ; it induces order and cleanliness amongst the visited, and a feeling of kindness and interest in the heart of the Visitor.

A subscription was raised for assisting cases of distress, and for the purpose of adding something to the savings of the depositors. This premium upon the saving of the poor must be considered as a very doubtful measure, and only to be tolerated in the out-set, to induce them to begin the habit, as to be permanent, any institution of this nature must be self-supporting ; and the lesson is not taught, unless the depositor finds the advantages of

his own saving and economy, without help or assistance from others.

To enable the Visitors to afford judicious relief where really required, and to become in this manner the almoners of those, whose circumstances preclude the possibility of personal investigation, is a very different question, and one which recommends itself to the approval of every reflecting mind. In a town divided amongst District Visitors, relief is equalized. A few are not relieved by many, but the many by the whole. Five years afterwards, an active member of the Committee, amongst other particulars, says :—" *Brighton, November 10th, 1830.*—The families visited are improved in habits of cleanliness. This and similar things, follow from the regular intercourse of ranks. The higher are not degraded, but the lower are raised." From this period, District Societies and the benefits they confer, became a subject of great interest to Mrs. Fry ; she assisted in their formation in many places, and as opportunity offered, recommended them as useful and desirable in towns and populous districts.

In Mrs. Fry's illness at Brighton she was liable to distressing attacks of faintness, during the night and early morning, when it was frequently necessary to take her to an open window for the refreshment of the air. Whether through the quiet grey dawn of the summer's morning, or by the fitful gleams of a tempestuous sky, one living object always presented itself to her view on these occasions—the solitary blockade man* pacing the

* Now called the "Coast Guard," or "Preventive Service," for the detection of smuggling.

shingly beach. It first attracted her attention, and soon excited her sympathy, for the service was one of hardship and of danger.

In the course of a drive, passing near a station, she stopped the carriage and spoke to one of the men ; he civilly informed her, they were not allowed to hold any communication with strangers, and declined further conversation. Afraid that by having spoken to him, she might inadvertently be the means of bringing him into difficulty, she gave him her card for his commanding officer, desiring that he might be informed she had spoken to the man, in order to inquire a few particulars respecting the state of the men, and of their wives and children, whom she saw about their dwellings. This little occurrence had almost passed from her mind, when, a few days afterwards, the subject was renewed by a visit from the Naval Lieutenant in command of the station where she had stopped. He came to answer her inquiries in person. The service was one that entailed much privation, both on officers and men ; the stations were often placed in dreary and inaccessible places. From the very nature of the service they were precluded from communication with the inhabitants, amongst whom it was exceedingly unpopular ; constantly harassed with nocturnal watching, exposed to danger, both from weather and affrays with smugglers, they might almost be said to be in a state of blockade themselves. What Mrs. Fry heard, only confirmed her desire to do something for their moral and religious good. The Lieutenants in command of several of the neighbouring posts warmly seconded her views. Considering the nature and regula-

tions of the coast blockade, almost the only thing that could be done was to supply the people with Bibles and useful books. In furtherance of this purpose, she applied to the Bible Society, and obtained a liberal grant of Bibles and Testaments.

The distribution of these books was a welcome office to her, to whom it was intrusted ; it brought her into agreeable and interesting communication with some of the officers as well as men stationed in the neighbourhood of Brighton ; her endeavours to serve them were received with openness, and responded to with the warmth and simplicity of the sailor character. And thus, from the vigils of her sick chamber, may be traced Mrs. Fry's exertions for supplying the coast-guard stations with libraries, to be afterwards so successfully carried out.

We have seen Mrs. Fry for many years pressed by domestic duties, and by cares from without, seldom for more than a few hours enjoying rest or mental repose enough to recruit her for coming exertion. We are now to look upon a different scene, and find her enjoying a lengthened period of comparative leisure. Between the river Thames, and a large piece of contiguous water, called Dagenham Breach, stand two cottages, surrounded by trees, mostly willows, on an open space of lawn, with beds of reeds behind them and on either side, covering the river bank. They are open to the south-west, and are only to be attained by a rough and circuitous cart-road, or by crossing the water in front of the cottages. A narrow dyke led from the Tilbury Fort Road to the Breach waters. There a boat would meet the comer, and convey him to that secluded watery world. Before

this year, Dagenham had been but an occasional resort for fishing ; now, repairs of the house at Plashet induced the family to try it as a temporary abode. The experiment answered, and for some years many summer weeks were passed by them in that singular retreat.

The life led there was one of rare enjoyment ; boating, fishing, the beautiful views of the Thames, and its opposite banks of Erith and Belvidere, the absence of form, the almost living in the open air, were pleasant and refreshing. Mrs. Fry delighted in the repose it afforded—her exquisite love of nature was indulged—her children lived around her—the busy world seemed left behind. Oh, how deeply are some of those summer evenings graven on the memory of the survivors ! The glorious sunsets, the shipping on the river, the water sounds, the freshness of the air, the happy groups of childhood, the pleasure of the parents, but, above all, the calm bright look and spirit with which she enjoyed the whole. How pleased she was at the happiness around her, how entertained at the little adventures incident to boats and boating, how ready to unite in expeditions amongst the upland lanes and heaths of Beacontree and Hornchurch, and to encourage that gladness of heart which has its origin in the beautiful and the true.

The autumn and winter were passed at Plashet with little travelling and fewer guests than sometimes. One journey Mrs. Fry made to Brighton to look after her objects there, which she found flourishing. The marked interest of 1825 was the marriage of her eldest son.

Dagenham, Eighth Month, 10th.—On Fifth day, the 4th of this month, my dear eldest son was married.* Upon the previous evening, with a few of the family present, I was enabled to commend him to his God, for direction, and for protection ; it was a very serious time. The next morning, we all, in our wedding-garments, proceeded to London ; my beloved husband and myself alone in the chariot, deeply feeling the weight of the occasion. Upon our arrival at the Meeting-house in Westminster, we found the party generally assembled. Soon after our sitting down in the Meeting, there was that which quieted our spirits, and said, "Peace, be still." We sat more than half an hour, when dear Rebecca Christy knelt down, and, in a powerful manner, prayed for the young people, that a blessing might be with them, above all a spiritual blessing ; my heart went with her, and I poured forth my tears before the Lord on their account ; there was a very solemn feeling over us, a little as if the Master owned the wedding company by His presence. I had to offer fervent petitions for their good, naturally and spiritually, and for grace for them to keep their solemn covenant with each other, and to make fresh covenant with their Lord. We had an elegant and hospitable entertainment afterwards ; my dear uncle Barclay was there ; he is grandfather to the bride, and great uncle to the bridegroom.

The day after the wedding we came here, which I have much enjoyed, being so quietly with my beloved husband and children, and so much devoted to them.

* To Rachel, daughter of Jacob Reynolds, of Carshalton, and grand-daughter of Robert Barclay, of Bury Hill.

The refreshing air and change of scene appear really to have invigorated me.

27th.—Since writing the above our bride and bridegroom returned. It has been to me really a time of rejoicing. Lord, bless them together, and grant them Thy love, Thy peace, and Thy joy. We have very satisfactory accounts of our beloved William from abroad, for which I trust I am thankful. Our dear son and daughter Cresswell are likely to live in Norfolk. I much feel parting from them and my sweet grandchildren. I think all our bonds of love strengthen. My sister Rachel's continued indisposition is, perhaps, my greatest outward trial at present, but, as it respects her, in the most important things, "all is well," therefore my anxiety about her is not of the deepest or most sorrowful kind. In short, at this time, it seems as if in every thing I must return thanks, and like the disciple, formerly, might answer to the query, "Lackest thou any thing?" Nothing, Lord, except more of Thy grace and good Spirit in all our hearts, to make us thankful receivers of Thy unmerited, innumerable, unspeakable gifts.

Not long after this event, Mrs. Fry travelled as a Minister amongst Friends into the south and west of England. She had visited these Meetings before, and on one of her journeys had made the acquaintance of that gifted Christian lady, Hannah More. The following spring, in reply to a slight request she had addressed to Mrs. More, she received this gratifying reply—

"MY DEAR FRIEND,

"Any request of yours, if within my very

limited power, cannot fail to be immediately complied with. In your kind note, I wish you had mentioned something of your own health, and that of your family.

“ I look back with no small pleasure to the too-short visit with which you once indulged me, a repetition of it would be no little gratification to me. Whether Divine Providence may grant it or not, I trust through Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, that we may hereafter meet in that blessed country, where there is neither sin, sorrow, nor separation.

“ Believe me, my dear friend, with true esteem and warm affection, to remain yours sincerely,

“ H. MORE.

“ *Barley Wood, 15th of April, 1826.*”

Mrs. Fry entertained the highest appreciation of this lady's character, and of the benefits she had conferred upon her country, especially upon her country-women. She always referred with great pleasure to her visit to Barley Wood, and the impression made upon her by the mingled sweetness and dignity of Mrs. More's countenance and manner.

In a letter to a friend, Mrs. More thus mentions the circumstance :—

“ To own the work of nonconformity in lesser things, and of perfect conformity in heart and mind. Yesterday the long-desired meeting took place between Mrs. Newgate (oh, that that name should ever become an honour !), Fry, and myself ; we were ready to eat one another up. Her appearance and manner reminded

me of what I have often said, that I should like to have her picture as Deborah judging Israel under the palm-tree ! She is indeed delightful. At parting she knelt down, and put up a feeling prayer for unworthy me."

In a copy of her "Practical Piety," given some years before by Mrs. More to Mrs. Fry, is this inscription.

TO MRS. FRY.

Presented by HANNAH MORE,

As a token of veneration

Of her heroic zeal,

Christian charity,

And persevering kindness,

To the most forlorn

Of human beings.

They were naked, and she

Clothed them ;

In prison, and she visited them ;

Ignorant, and she taught them,

For *His* sake,

In *His* name, and by *His* word,

Who went about doing good.

Barley Wood, June 17th, 1818.

The return of the season had brought with it the interest of the annual transportation of female convicts. This year, five ships had been taken up for that purpose. There had been two every year from 1823. In 1827, five ships, as well as in 1826. Four, five, six, were the numbers employed the three following years. Of course, this endeavour on the part of the Government to increase the female population in New South Wales, oc-

casioned great expence to the British Ladies' Society, with much additional trouble and fatigue.

Though kind friends and assistants undertook the laborious task of minute preparations for the voyage, Mrs. Fry encouraged them by her presence and example, as far as was compatible with her numerous avocations at home and abroad. She met with much kindness from Admiral (then Captain) Young, Principal Resident Agent of Transports on the River Thames, and his family. Their recollections are vivid of many scenes and transactions, and go far to supply the place of that valuable information, which Admiral Young, had he been living, could have himself furnished.

Mrs. Young has often recurred to a farewell visit to a female convict-ship, on the point of sailing, in which she accompanied Mrs. Fry, saying, that she could "scarcely look upon her as any other than an angel of mercy, calmly passing from one to another of the poor wretched beings around her, with the word of counsel, comfort, or reproof, that seemed suited to each individual case, as it presented itself to her notice. With several kind assistants, she was arranging work for them during the voyage ; in itself no trifling matter. But many a point of deepest interest and anxiety brought to her ready ear, met with such response as could only be looked for from a devoted follower of Him, "who went about doing good."

On the mind of Miss Young the circumstance was strongly impressed, of accompanying her father (Captain Young) to the female convict ships, lying off Woolwich, to meet Mr. Wilberforce and Mrs. Fry. "On board one

of them, between two and three hundred women were assembled, in order to listen to the exhortations and prayers of, perhaps, the two brightest personifications of Christian philanthropy that the age could boast. Scarcely could two voices, even so distinguished for beauty and power, be imagined united in a more touching engagement—as indeed was testified by the breathless attention, the tears and the suppressed sobs, of the gathered listeners. All of man's word, however, there heard, heart-stirring as it was at the time, has faded from my memory ; but no lapse of time can ever efface the impression of the 107th Psalm, as read by Mrs. Fry, with such extraordinary emphasis and intonation, that it seemed to make the simple reading a commentary ; and, as she passed on from passage to passage, struck my youthful mind, as if the whole series of allusions might have been written by the pen of inspiration, in view of such a scene as was then before us. At an interval of twenty years, it is recalled to me as often as that Psalm is brought to my notice.

“ Never, in this world, can it be known to how many hearts its solemn appeals were that day carried home, by that potent voice.”

CHAPTER XII.

IRISH JOURNEY—DUBLIN—OVERWHELMING FATIGUES—ILLNESS AT WATERFORD—RETURN HOME—ILLNESS AND DEATH OF HER SISTER RACHEL GURNEY—BIRTH OF A GRANDSON AND NEPHEW—ESTIMATE OF INFANT LIFE—FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

AMONGST the numerous applications to Mrs. Fry, for information on subjects connected with prisons and the reformation of prisoners, many inquiries reached her from Ireland. She had had it on her mind for years, that it might be her duty, in the capacity of a minister amongst Friends, to visit that country ; now the way appeared to open for it. Her eldest daughter had gradually taken the weight of domestic care from her mother, and was entirely competent to the conduct of her more public business. In the spring of 1827 her brother Joseph John Gurney proposed uniting with her in a journey to Ireland, for the combined purpose of visiting Friends, holding public meetings for persons of other persuasions, and inspecting the state of prisons and various asylums. Her husband's sister Elizabeth Fry agreed to accompany her. Acutely did she feel leaving her family ; and most painful was it to them to part with her ; nor was the trial lessened by some of her children being far from satisfied as to these engagements, and quite unable to comprehend how a career so peculiar

could be consistent with their mother's domestic duties. It required the wonderful results of her exertions, and the practical effects of these journeys, to convince them, that it was by the great Head of the Church, that she was "put forth" for such services.

Of her last sabbath at home she says :—

The First-day preceding my leaving home, was most interesting. In the first place, I had all the servants collected at the morning reading, and expressed very fully my desires for them, and their preservation in the right way, which they appeared to feel a good deal, and it was a heart-tendering time. My beloved John and his Rachel were staying with us, and their sweet babe. Before meeting, I had the children a little while alone, and the meeting was in no common degree solemn. The afternoon meeting, if any thing, was still more so, the ministry very lively and refreshing. My dearest sister Louisa Hoare was with us to my real comfort ; my brother William Fry and his children were at both meetings. In the evening, we had a large number to tea, and at our evening reading. It was very interesting taking leave of my most dearly beloved family. The presence of the Most High appeared to overshadow us ; prayer was offered again and again, and testimony upon testimony was given. One Friend expressed his full belief that we should return in peace and safety, and that no harm would come nigh my dwelling ; a general feeling of the rectitude of our going was no small comfort. The next morning, I bid my darling children farewell in their beds. I left home about six o'clock, accompanied by my sons William and Joseph. My natural pain in part-

ing with those most tenderly beloved, was mitigated by a portion of that peace the world cannot give, in making what I trust was a sacrifice well pleasing to the best of Masters.

Extracts from her own letters, furnish not merely the history of her journey, but an account of her natural fears, and her spiritual consolations—the difficulties that appeared before her, and the power by which she was enabled to surmount them. Written in haste, and often when greatly wearied, these letters have nothing to commend them but their truth, simplicity and earnestness of feeling ; but those who wish to follow her through the journey of life, not only in what she did, but what she felt, will prefer extracts from them, such as they are, to a more laboured history related by others.

She was attracted by the Irish character ; her mission excited their enthusiasm, and she saw them under the most favourable circumstances. The travellers had not been a week in Dublin before both Mrs. Fry's companions became ill. She tells her family at home, that with her " brother in the next house, and her sister up high flights of stairs," and " many guests," she was " rather overpowered," and hopes that it was " not a want of resignation anxiously to desire their recovery ;" she was reminded of Paul, " how much he wished for his companion's revival, lest he should have sorrow upon sorrow." A few days later, after speaking of a large dinner, given by the Secretary of State for the time being, and a crowded week-day Meeting, she adds :—

" I forgot to say, that when visiting the prisoners the day before, the judges were sitting in the court, and

sent for us to go to them there. Picture your uncle, myself, and some other Friends, in a crowded court, sitting beside the judges. I could but be reminded of the difference of our situation, to that of Friends formerly, taken into the courts in time of persecution, and so cruelly treated; but my belief is, that their standing their ground as they did, prepared the way for even these services—‘They laboured, and we have entered into their labours.’ May the same power preserve us, in what may appear heights, as it did them in depths!”

The House of Industry she considered almost the most interesting institution she ever saw, but being accompanied by nearly a hundred persons, added to her fatigue and lessened her comfort. The state of the lunatics gave her “real pleasure.” Other prisons were visited, still larger meetings held, and then she acknowledges to their “leaving Dublin with thankful and peaceful hearts,” under a “deep feeling,” that “hitherto the Lord had helped them,” and out of “weakness they had been made strong.” Armagh and Lisburn were visited; of the former place she says:—

We began our morning with some Friends to breakfast at the inn, and after reading, we set off to the prison. It was a fine day, and we had a pleasant walk to it. Several were waiting for us, both gentlemen and ladies. We had, for the first time, a religious opportunity with the prisoners; first, Elizabeth and myself, with the women, then all of us, with the men. The Roman Catholics appear very hard to reach; but with the poor men, I think, the power of truth reigned over all, and their spirits appeared brought down. We then went to

the Lunatic Asylum, which was in delightful order ; then to Lady Lifford's, where we found an excellent committee. We had a religious time with this charming lady, and then went forward to a Meeting at Rich Hill, a curious place, and as curious a congregation ; but we had a good Meeting. Afterwards, by some accident, I went into a private house, thinking it was the inn, and gave orders as if at an inn ; I ordered tea immediately, and begged to be shown to a bed-room, for my sister to lie down, as she was but poorly. At last I discovered my droll, and at first disagreeable mistake ; but such was Irish hospitality, that the lady of the house made us stay, gave us some tea, comforted us up, and sent us off, not knowing whom she had received, nor do we know her name. We then had an easy drive here, horses good, roads better ; but both my dear companions far from well. I feel we have much cause for thankfulness ; we are daily provided for ; and may, through unmerited mercy, say with the disciples formerly, to the query, "Lackest thou any thing ?" Nothing, Lord, except to be better ourselves, and more fit for such a service.

A meeting at Lisburn proved a service of some danger. On their arrival at the place appointed, a large school-room at the top of a high building, the crowd and press were so great, they at first thought the attempt to enter must be given up ; however, after "great pressing," they were "driven into such an assembly," that her "poor heart almost sunk." She feared the floor giving way—she feared the surging crowd before her, and shrank from the noise and excitement. But a short time sufficed to establish silence, and peace reigned in

that large and mixed assembly, to be followed by solemn exhortation and prayer.

At Londonderry, their arrival was greeted by a merry peal of bells. At Coleraine they determined to have one day for recreation to visit the Giant's Causeway. She longs for her "beloved family," is wet and weary, "spoils" her "cloak and bonnet," but is "glad" that she "saw it," as a "fresh proof of the wonderful and various works of God." By Enniskillen and Sligo they made their way to Boyle, thence to Roscommon and Moate, visiting prisons, holding meetings, and distributing tracts as they went. Her last letter was from Galway, "in the midst of what appears gross darkness." At one meeting about one thousand persons, almost all Roman Catholics, were present; it began with confusion, subsided into tranquillity, but ended with many of the auditors marking their satisfaction by knocking with their feet, and clapping their hands!

Elizabeth Fry was becoming worn and overfatigued; every day added to the difficulty with which she accomplished the work allotted to it. Happily, they reached the hospitable dwelling of John Strangman, at Waterford, before her powers completely failed her. It was on Friday, the 12th of April, that she arrived there, and for more than a week she needed all the care and close nursing which she experienced: then she gradually began to rally, and they pursued their onerous work. Her own journal written upon their return home, gives a sketch of the latter part of their journey, and more is not required, as a publication by her brother, Joseph John Gurney, gives a complete account

of the state of prisons and public institutions in Ireland.

Plasht, Sixth Month, 2nd.—We continued our journey until the 11th of the Fifth Month; we went on much the same as I before described, with the exception of visiting some important towns, where no Friends resided; Londonderry, Sligo, and Galway, particularly the latter, where we held important Public Meetings, and saw many persons; we also visited some institutions—amidst serious difficulties, particularly from the Roman Catholics, but our way was marvellously made. The great numbers that followed us, almost wherever we went, was one of those things that I believe was too much for me; no one can tell but those who have been brought into similar circumstances, what it is to feel as I did at such times; often weak and fagged in body, exhausted in mind, having things of importance to direct my attention to, and not less than a multitude around me, each expecting a word or some mark of attention. For instance, on one occasion a General on one side, a Bishop on the other, and perhaps sixty other persons, all expecting something from me. Visiting Prisons, Lunatic Asylums, and Infirmaries, each institution exciting feeling and requiring judgment. I endeavoured to seek for help from above, and for a quiet mind, and my desire was, that such times should not be lost upon those persons; they ended frequently in religious opportunities, and many came in consequence to our Public Meetings. However, these things proved too much for me, and tired me more than any part of our service.

There were some, I believe, who feared my exaltation,

and if they judged from outward appearances, I do not wonder at it ; but a deep conviction of my own unworthiness and infirmity was so living with me, that these things appeared more likely to cast me into the dust, than raise me up on high. We went on thus, from place to place, until we reached Waterford ; we had visited Limerick, Cork, and other places. I felt completely sinking, hardly able to hold up my head, and, by degrees, became seriously ill. Fever came on, and ran very high, and I found myself in one of my distressing, faint states ; indeed, a few hours were most conflicting ; I never remember to have known a more painful time ; tried without, distressed within, feeling such fears lest it should try the faith of others, my being thus stopped by illness, and lest my own faith should fail. My pain, too, in being from home, was great. We were obliged to stop all the Meetings that we had appointed for days to come ; however, much as I suffered for a short time, I had most sweet peace afterwards, my blessed Saviour arose with "healing in his wings," delivered me from my fears, poured balm into my wounds, and granted me such a sense of having obtained full reconciliation with my God, as I can hardly describe. All was peace ; I no longer hankered after home, but was able to commit myself, and those nearest, to this unslumbering, all merciful, and all powerful Shepherd. By degrees, I was sufficiently raised up to attend Meetings, visit some prisons, and see many persons, and we concluded our general visit to Ireland, to my relief, peace, and satisfaction. The Yearly Meeting crowned all, as to our ministerial services in our own Society. We left Waterford on the 11th of

Fifth Month, after visiting Wicklow, and Wexford, at that time remaining at Waterford a few hours only. We entered the steam-packet, slept on board, and left the harbour about three o'clock in the morning. I suffered a little, but not from sea-sickness, and enjoyed part of the voyage, which was most favourable, wind fair, sea calm, and many dear friends on board, who were most kind to us. We arrived at Milford about one o'clock, but I felt a want of due thankfulness at being once again on this side the channel. We had an exceedingly kind reception from the Starbuck family, and a meeting with them, and other Friends in the evening.

The next day we went to Swansea, where we slept; we had a Meeting there, and also at Neath.

On Fourth day, I met my beloved husband at Maidenhead, with a good account from home: I arrived there in the evening, and although far from well, yet able to enjoy the sight of my beloved family and sweet home. I find things going on to my comfort and satisfaction; for this I desire to be humbly thankful.

The week following was much occupied by the interests of our own Yearly Meeting, and this week by a deeply-anxious dispensation, in the serious and sudden illness of my beloved brother Fowell Buxton; the shock was great, and our feeling for him and his dearest wife deep indeed. We have now the inexpressible comfort of his being much better, and likely to recover; we rejoice not only for our own sakes, but for the world generally, that it has pleased a kind Providence to raise up again such a dearly-beloved and useful member of our family, and of the community at large.

Sixth Month.—In reviewing our late journey, I may say of my brother Joseph, that he is one who delights my heart ; I think such true Christian conduct is not often manifested ; he so remarkably combines the gifts and graces of the spirit, his constant kindness and humility were striking and exemplary. We are certainly united in a remarkable manner, not only by close natural bonds, but in spiritual unity.

Mrs. Fry's return from Ireland was clouded by the illness of her sister, Rachel Gurney, who was then at Brighton for change of air. Thither she soon followed her, and remained for a few days with her and one of her own daughters, who was staying at Brighton to be near her aunt. Threatening as had been the symptoms attending the illness of this most beloved sister, it was on this occasion, that the sorrowful conviction was first driven home to her heart, that the case was becoming so alarming, that but one termination could be expected. From childhood, from the happy days of Bramerton, and Earlham, when "one cabinet, one little set of tea-things, one small light closet," had been shared between them, their love had flowed on, deepening and strengthening with life, and its vicissitudes. The depth and fidelity of Rachel Gurney's attachment to her sister had in truth been "wonderful." Self-sacrificing, considerate, and protecting—most sensitively alive to her interests, her cares and her joys ; but there were distresses approaching, from which this devoted friend and sister could not have shielded her ; and the mercy was apparent, when little more than a year had passed by, of her having been

taken hence, without seeing one, so tenderly beloved, borne down by many sorrows.

Very peaceful was Rachel Gurney's return to the home of her childhood ; her "flesh, and her heart, were indeed failing," yet God was the strength of her heart, and to Him she looked with unfaltering confidence, as about to become her "portion for ever." She wrote to Mrs. Fry, on her journey :—

"The quiet travelling has only been a luxury ; both morning and evening have been delightful to me, as to weather and scenery. I have felt soothed and comforted, more than any thing else. I am most deeply sensible of the blessing thou hast been made to me ; I think it seems to have put me more in the right way of taking, bearing, and feeling, my present allotment ; above all, I trust it has strengthened me in my *best desires* and endeavours to walk humbly with my God !

"My kind and grateful love to all my affectionate attendants, and abundance of love to the dear children."

The end of August found Mrs. Fry at Earlham, in close attendance upon her sister. There, impressed with the high Christian attainments of her brothers and sisters, in deep humility of spirit, she writes :—

"I think, I never am brought into contact with many of my beloved brothers and sisters, without a very humbling feeling of my own infirmity, and shortcomings ; I find them such examples to me, and am ready to say within my heart—though I have come so publicly forward—though I have preached righteousness in the great congregation, what will become of me and my house ? and where is there amongst us the same fruits of the Spirit ?

My merciful Father has helped me, cared for me, sustained and provided for me, and in many ways blessed me; but I still see many hidden evils in my heart, and as for my family, fears often get hold of me, and for myself also, lest I should not walk worthy of my high and holy calling. I can only intercede for us all, that for the sake of Him who came to seek and to save that which was lost, our gracious God would have mercy on us. Oh, dearest Lord! Thou hast granted the petition of Thine handmaid, for her brothers and sisters, she now sees in them, in a great measure, the travail of her soul, and is satisfied. Reject not her prayers for her husband and children! bring them by any ways, or by any paths that Thou mayst see meet, but let them also come to the knowledge of the ever-blessed truth, as it is in Jesus, that they may be saved with an everlasting salvation. And, oh, gracious Lord, be with Thy poor servant to the end; and through the continued extension of Thy grace, Thy help, and Thy mercy, let nothing ever be permitted to separate her soul from Thy love in Christ Jesus, her beloved Lord, and all-sufficient Saviour.

“By any ways, or by any paths, that Thou mayst see meet; but let them come to the knowledge of the ever-blessed truth, as it is in Jesus.”

Such had become the language of her heart.

More than twenty-five years had passed, of deepening experience and growing dedication, since the ministry of William Savery had been the means of producing so marvellous a change in her. Religion, for the first time presented to her view, through the medium and under the aspect of Quakerism, was, for a length of time, asso-

ciated in her mind too exclusively with the peculiar form in which she then had known it, and which had been so eminently blessed to herself. She appears now to have attained to the conviction, that the peculiar forms and scruples of sects may be mistaken, and substituted for the cross of Christ, and that there may be faithful and devoted Cross-bearers, who adopt none of these peculiarities. She had learned to recognise the vast distinction between the diversities of forms in religious worship, and the mighty mystery of religion itself; even the "being renewed in the spirit of the mind, and born again from the death of sin to the life of righteousness."

Amongst her brothers and sisters, she saw much of the fruits of the Spirit, in dedication of heart, and labours of Christian love; but it was not at first easy to her to believe, that the path that some of them had chosen, was for them as entirely right, as the one she had taken was for herself and others of the family.

To a mind so honestly seeking truth, and desiring to receive it in simplicity, conviction could not fail in its effect, and she became at last reconciled to these "diversities of administration." Her acquaintance with the excellent of the earth, beyond the sphere of her own family, tended to enlarge her boundaries; still she clung to the peculiar form of Christianity which she had adopted for herself; and for her children, it was long the craving of her heart, her intense desire, that they might become "Friends" from conviction; but even this strong desire of her heart was to be in great measure disappointed. We now find her, fully and unreservedly, petitioning

Him who had eminently proved to her a "prayer-hearing, answering God," "by any ways, or by any paths, that He might see meet," but that they might "come to the knowledge of the ever-blessed truth, as it is in Jesus." Here is no reserve, no holding back, the surrender of will is entire, and the spirit of submission complete. Very blessed it is to those of her children, who have been unable to see as she saw, and to receive the views which she entertained, to know that it was given her by degrees, without any wavering in her own opinions, without any diminution of her entire love for the principles of Friends, "to recognise no distinction," provided "the narrow path was chosen, and the cross of Christ borne."

Earlham, 15th.—Sitting opposite to my most beloved sister in the blue-room. She appears to be gradually sinking into death, and may we not humbly trust and confidently believe, into the arms of her God and Saviour. Grant, Lord, I pray Thee, if consistent with Thy holy and blessed will, that she may fall asleep in Thee, and that no painful struggles may attend her change; that quietly and imperceptibly she may cast off this mortal tabernacle, having already testified to us her faith and her hope, and be landed on the other side of Jordan, awaking to joy and glory unspeakable. And do Thou, oh Lord! sustain us also, in this time of trial, and enable us, in our low estate, to rejoice in Thee, our God and our Saviour, who yet giveth the victory over death, hell, and the grave.

I have been alone and quiet a little while, and I find in this awful time, that "help is laid on One who is

mighty ;" for that, which ever since I came to an age of understanding, has appeared almost impossible to bear, even the loss of *this* sister, who has been like "flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone," now I am enabled to receive, and bow under the dispensation with peace. I believe that she has done her work, and that we have nearly finished our work for her ; but is there not an all-sufficient Helper near, who is holding up her head above the waves of Jordan, that they overwhelm her not ?

On the 17th of September, in "perfect peace," Rachel Gurney departed this life.

19th.—Blue-room—with my beloved sister's remains. All quietness, rest in comparison—over my own mind a solemn feeling of peace, and this truth impressed upon me, "There is a rest for the people of God." Several important lessons, I think, I have learnt by attending this most beloved sister. 1st, That persons are apt to dwell more on the means of grace, about which they differ, than its simple pure operation leading out of evil into good. This I have long believed ; but, seeing one who united as she did with the good in all, and could hardly be said to be of any sect or body of Christians, so grounded in the Christian life and practice, proves experimentally, that being united fully to any set of people is not essential, and all minor points of difference of comparatively little value. 2ndly, I learn to trust more, and be less afraid. She, like myself, was liable to many fears, particularly in her nervous sinking states—how little cause had she for these fears, and how were the things that she most dreaded remarkably averted ;

also, that the last part of a death-illness gradually appears to diminish rather than increase in conflict, as with natural life and power, sensibility to suffering lessens. In short, the lesson taught us is, to seek to serve and follow our Lord, and He will be with us and make a way for us, even unto the end. 3rdly, That in passing through life, patience should have its perfect work, that we should seek for a more willing mind to suffer, as well as to do the will of God, looking for daily help in this respect; that we should endeavour in all things for an upright, circumspect walk before the Lord, speaking the truth in love; above all, that we should seek after full understanding of, and reliance on, the work of salvation through Christ; and obtain (if possible) more knowledge of the Scriptures, and a better acquaintance with religious books.

The funeral took place on the 23rd, an occasion of very deep feeling, wakening many sorrowful recollections and associations.

On the 24th, Mrs. Fry went to King's Lynn, to her daughter, and the following evening wrote to announce the birth of a little grandson, thus rapidly passing from the last, to the first scene in "man's eventful history." She had been anxious to come to her child, and yet could scarcely leave Earlham sooner. To her family at home she says, "I cannot but thank a kind Providence for bringing me here in the needful time, and thus guiding my steps aright." One day later she was sent for to Runcton, in consequence of the birth of a nephew, whose life, which hung upon a most slender thread, was apparently saved through her unremitting exertions.

She set an unusual value upon infant life ; she was almost displeased at the death of little children being lightly considered ; “ You none know how good or how great they may live to be.” Nor was it only in reference to this world that she felt thus, for “ Are there not ‘ many mansions ?’ different degrees of glory, in the heavenly inheritance.” This estimate of life, and the use to be made of it, was perfectly consistent with absolute submission to the will of God, whenever it was His good pleasure to take it. There were four lines of Sir William Jones, which she greatly delighted in ; often and often has she recited them, with some little one in her arms, whose soft skin, and meaningless expression, bespoke how lately it had become an inhabitant of this world—

“ On parent knees, a naked new-born child,
Weeping thou sat’st—while all around thee smiled ;
So live, that sinking to thy long last sleep,
Safe thou may’st smile—whilst all around thee weep.”

A press of engagements awaited her return to Plashet. Business and correspondence, public and private, at home and abroad. Communications addressed to her had become increasingly numerous, especially from the Continent. Dr. Julius, of Hamburgh, became a frequent correspondent. This gentleman had long devoted himself to the subject of Prison Discipline. During this year, he had lectured at Berlin for two months upon the subject, the course being attended by above a hundred gentlemen of rank and fortune. From M. Ducpetiaux, at Brussels, a zealous advocate for Prison Reform, she had received communications. A long letter, of

great interest, had reached her from Madame Potemkin, née Galitzin, at St. Petersburg ; also, through John Vening, Esq., she received details of Prisons and Lunatic Asylums, by desire of the Empress Dowager of Russia. From another quarter, she had details sent to her, of the Grand Duke of Baden, having in his dominions instituted inquiries as to the best method of constructing prisons. Again, from Paris she received communications of the state of prisons in France, with, amongst other matters, an account entitled, "*Fragmens d'un compte rendu sur les Prisons de Lyons, 1827,*" etc. etc. ; présenté à Monsiegnur le Dauphin, par M. le Baron De Gerando.

The era of advance was come ; and those who wished well to their fellow-creatures, marked the progress of good with intense satisfaction. Few and scattered as were the efforts made, the opinion was gaining ground, that preventing crime was of sounder policy than punishing it ; and the reformation of the culprit, the end to be sought in penal legislation.

CHAPTER XIII.

JOURNEY WITH MR. FRY—LADIES' BRITISH SOCIETY MEETING—MARRIAGE OF A DAUGHTER—GREAT AND HEAVY SORROWS—LETTER TO A DAUGHTER—LEAVES PLASHET—WINTER IN LONDON—SICKNESS AND DILEMMAS—A NEW DWELLING—FOREIGN LETTERS—DR. JULIUS—MADAME DE PASTORET—SUMMONS TO THE SICK-BED OF A NIECE—POOR MAN BY THE ROAD-SIDE—PREPARES HER TEXT BOOK—ANECDOTE—ATTENDS SUSSEX QUARTERLY MEETING.

IN April, 1828, Mrs. Fry accompanied her husband into some of the Shires. To visit the Meetings of Friends and Prisons was her chief inducement; but she also was glad to avail herself of the change of scene and travelling for some of her family. "To follow, and not force Providence" was a favourite sentiment with her; she had taken it from "Cecil's remains," a book in which she delighted. "To avail ourselves of the openings," was another expression to be frequently heard from her lips. After her return she recapitulates the principal interest of her journey.

Plashet, Fifth Month, 7th.—I am once more settled at home, after a journey to Lynn, and into the midland counties, with my husband, my daughter Richenda, and Foster Reynolds. In the course of it, I visited thirteen prisons, also some Meetings; often to my wonder that

so unworthy an instrument should be so honourably made use of to minister to the spiritual state of others, and to visit and be the means of assisting so many in prison and in bonds. It is perfectly curious to me to observe how my way is made when I go to a place, hardly knowing a person in it ; how soon I am favoured to be surrounded by the serious and the good of different descriptions ; to partake of sweet unity of spirit with them, to encourage them in their good works, and often induce them to visit the prisons. Surely the hand of Providence is in some of these things, small and great ! It was strikingly manifested in many instances on this journey ; I was enabled to form three new Committees for visiting prisons, and to re-organise others, in a way that I hope will prove useful. Where my lot was cast among Friends, I also found the best help to be near. I attended the Derby and Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, as well as several other Meetings, and met my dearest brother Joseph at Leicester, where I was enabled to assist him in the needful time ; it appeared almost providential. I walked into the Meeting where he was at Leicester ; he did not expect me, neither did I know he was in that town. He appeared greatly in need of help, being fatigued and very unwell. Since my return home, the British Society Meeting has much occupied my attention. It was on the last day of last month ; it was a very numerous assemblage of ladies, many of them of high rank. I had much to do in it from time to time, when the different reports were read ; I explained a little, and at other times poured forth much of my mind on the subject. However, I went away low and humbled

at the conspicuous part I had to take, not doubting that it would bring me into evil report as well as good report, and fearing lest the Secretaries and other valuable members of the Society might feel my doing so much, and their doing comparatively little ; and yet my heart was so full of interest upon the subject, and my head so full of matter, that I did not nearly express all I had to say. The general impression I hear was satisfactory, and I trust good was done ; but I may set my seal to this—that public services are fearful services, and none but those engaged in them, know how much those are spared who do good privately. Still, if the Master calls us into public duties, it is not only well, but honourable, and in them much more good is accomplished, because so many are concerned ; still I would have no one seek for them, but if rightly brought into them, preservation will I believe be granted. A watchful, humble spirit is called for ; one that is not exalted by the undue approbation of fellow-mortals, nor too much cast down by disapprobation or evil reports. There must also be a willingness to commit all these works to Him, who can prosper them or not, according to His own good pleasure.

For this meeting of the British Society, Mrs. Fry had prepared rough notes, or memoranda, which exist. They contain allusions to some facts, but not the facts themselves, as illustrations of her opinions as to the proper treatment of female prisoners. They were much the same, as those contained in the little work published by Mrs. Fry in 1827. The same ideas are to be found in her evidence before the Police Committee of the House

of Commons, and in letters to official persons. They include observations on the good effect of ladies visiting prisons, workhouses, hospitals, lunatic asylums and other public institutions ; the necessity of classification, female officers, regular occupation ; enforced plainness of appearance, separation, and where that cannot be enforced, absolute silence after retiring for the night ; with many details that must present themselves to every one who has entertained the subject of Prison Discipline, but above all, the infinite importance of religious instruction. She enlarged on the state of female convict-ships, the need of better clothing for the women, the wretched condition of their little nurslings, and various topics connected with the peculiarities of a sea voyage. She finished by a heart-stirring appeal to the many present, gifted with influence and talent, wealth and position, on the subject of the increase of crime in this country, the responsibilities of all, the sphere of usefulness open to every individual, even to the tender and delicate woman, who might be said scarcely "to have the air of Heaven visit her face too roughly," as a wife to influence, as a mother to educate and train, as the mistress of a family to guide, control, reprove, encourage. She touched upon district societies, libraries for the lower classes, general education,—and concluded by urging upon her hearers in nothing to be discouraged ; but in humble confidence to go on, remembering that the work is not ours—therefore, we may look to Him Who is mighty, upon Whom help is laid, to be "stedfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as their labour would not be in vain in the Lord."

On the 19th of June, Mr. and Mrs. Fry's third daughter* was married. Two days afterwards, her mother records her thankful happiness, and describes the day.

Sixth Month, 21st. Thanks be to our Heavenly Father, there was, I think, throughout the day a great mixture of real solemnity with true cheerfulness. It was certainly no common day. William Foster Reynolds and his wife, my husband and myself, with nineteen of our own children in the two families, besides children-in-law and some grandchildren, and nine of my brothers and sisters. Through everything, order, quietness and cheerfulness, were remarkably maintained. After dinner I returned thanks for our many blessings, and could with a few present feel how many outward deliverances we had experienced; that we had had our heads kept above the waters, spiritually and temporally, and were able to have such a day of rejoicing. Our dear bride and bridegroom left us in the afternoon. The evening was fine, and our lawn looked really beautiful, covered with the large and interesting party. In the evening we assembled together, and had a solemn religious time; giving, I trust, the praise that was due alone to Him from whom all good and blessings flow.

This marriage was hailed by Elizabeth Fry with singular pleasure; not only was the connection highly acceptable to her, and one that she believed likely to promote the happiness of her child, but it also possessed what was, in her estimation, the peculiar advantage of

* Richenda Fry was married to Foster Reynolds, eldest son of William Foster Reynolds, of Carshalton House, Surrey.

being with a member of the Society of Friends. Whilst her hospitable and affectionate nature was gratified with the prospect of receiving the bridal party at Plashet, she craved spiritual blessings for the two most interested, and that the occasion, like the marriage at Cana in Galilee, might be owned by the presence of the Lord. It was a beautiful summer day—the sun shone brilliantly—Plashet was arrayed in all its verdure, gay with bright flowers, and sprinkled with groups of happy young people. After the bride was gone, one of the sisters crossed the lawn to speak to her mother; she said something of the scene before them, and the outward prosperity which seemed to surround that beloved parent. The reply was remarkable; for, after expressing a strong feeling of gratification and enjoyment, she added, in words which have rivetted themselves upon the memory of her, to whom they were addressed—“But I have remarked, that when great outward prosperity is granted, it is often permitted to precede great trials.” There is an old rhyme which says,

“When joy seemeth highest
Then sorrow is nighest!”

Surely this was verified, in the contrast between that day and the scenes, which so shortly followed in that long-loved home.

Shortly after the wedding, the family removed to Dagenham for their summer retreat; and in the autumn Mrs. Fry accompanied her husband into the North of England, where he went on account of some business transactions. In this journey, her daughter Hannah

was with her. She received at that time, as she had frequently done before, very great kindness from her valued friends of the Benson family. Nor was theirs the friendship which existed only in the day of sunshine ; for when so soon afterwards the storm arose, and adversity prevailed, they were among those whose efficient kindness was singularly manifested.

The clouds in the mercantile world, which darkened the horizon of 1825, had apparently passed over, but it was in appearance only. Mrs. Fry writes :—

Ninth Month, 15th, 1828.—The storm has now entered my own borders—once more we are brought into perplexity and trial ; but I have this consolation, “ He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.” To whom can I go in this time of emergency, but to Him who hitherto has helped me, and provided for me and mine in a marvellous manner—made darkness light before me, and crooked things straight. Lord ! Thou who remainest to be the God of my life, above all things, in this our sorrow and perplexity, cast us not out of thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us ; keep us from all evil, and from the appearance of it ; that through the help of Thy Spirit our conduct may be kept upright ; circumspect and clean in Thy sight, and amongst men ; that in all things, at all times, and under all circumstances, we may shew forth Thy praise. Keep us in love and unity with those with whom we have to act, even if they do contrary to our wishes and judgment. But, oh, dearest Lord, if it be Thy holy will, make a way of escape for us, from the calamity we so much dread, and continue in Thy unmerited mercy to provide

for Thy unworthy servant, her family, and all concerned in this trial, that we may not want what is good and needful for us, and that others may be kept from suffering through us. If it be possible, remove this bitter cup from us ; yet, if it be Thy will that we drink it, enable us, through the grace and spirit of Him who suffered for us, to drink it without repining—yet trusting in Thy love, Thy mercy, and Thy judgment.

But it was not at this time, the will of God to remove the bitter cup from His servant, but rather to grant strength and grace to drink of it, as coming from His Holy hand.

The failure of one of the houses of business in which her husband was a partner, though not that which he personally conducted, involved Elizabeth Fry and her family in a train of sorrows and perplexities, which tinged the remaining years of her life. Nature staggered beneath the blow ; but the staff on which she leaned could not fail her, and she fell not.

Eleventh Month, 25th.—I have been brought at times into little short of anguish of spirit ; not I think so much for what we must suffer ourselves, as for what others may suffer. The whole thing appears fraught with distress. When I look at this mysterious dispensation permitted by Almighty wisdom, I am ready to say, How is it, Lord, Thou dealest thus with Thy servant, who loves Thee, trusts in Thee, and fears Thy name—and then I say, this is my infirmity, thus to query. Need I not chastisement ? Do I not deserve it ? May it not be a mysterious dispensation of deep and sore affliction, laid not only upon us, but upon others, to

draw us all more from the things of time, and to set us more on the enduring riches of Eternity. I cannot reason upon it ; I must bow, and only bow and say in my heart, which I believe I do, " Not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Well, if it be of the Lord, let Him do as seemeth Him good. Lord, let Thy grace be found sufficient for us in this most awful time, and grant that we faint not when Thou rebukest us !

The following Sunday the question was much debated as to whether she and her family generally should attend their Meeting for worship, or not ; but she felt it right to go, and of course was accompanied by her husband and children. She took her usual seat, bowed down and overwhelmed, with the bitter tears rolling down her cheeks—no common thing with her.

After a very solemn pause, she rose, with these words, her voice trembling with emotion :—" Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him ;" and testified, in a short and beautiful discourse, that her faith and love were as strong in the hour of adversity, as they had been in the time of prosperity. Her friends were deeply affected, marking by their manner their sympathy and love.

To her only absent child she wrote :—

" Plasket, Eleventh Month, 27th, 1828.

" MY DEAREST RACHEL,

" I have at last taken up my pen to write to thee ; but to one so near, and so much one with myself, it is difficult. I do not like to pour out my sorrows too heavily upon thee, nor do I like to keep thee in the dark as to our real state. This is, I consider, one of the deep-

est trials to which we are liable ; its perplexities are so great and numerous, its mortifications and humiliations so abounding, and its sorrows so deep. None can tell but those who have passed through it, the anguish of heart at times felt ; but, thanks be to our God, this extreme state of distress has not been very frequent, nor its continuance very long. I frequently find my mind in degree sheathed to the deep sorrows, and am enabled not to look so much at them ; but there are also times when secondary things arise—parting with servants, the poor around us, schools, and our dear Place. These things overwhelm me ; indeed, I think naturally I have a very acute sense of the sorrow. Then the bright side of the picture rises : I have found much help and strength in prayer to God ; and highly mysterious as, in some points of view, this dispensation may be, yet I think I have frequently, if not generally, come to be able to say—‘Not as I will, but as Thou wilt,’ and to bow under it. All our children, and children-in-law, my brothers and sisters, our many friends and servants, have been a strong consolation to me ; and, above all, a little refreshment to my tribulated spirit has been granted me at times, from what I trust are the well-springs from on High.”

The tide of sympathy flowed in marvellously from all quarters. The mass of letters that exist attest how well she was loved, how highly she was valued, and upon how many hearts she and her sorrows were borne.

A severe accident to her eldest grandson, for a few days detained his mother in Norfolk. She had last seen

Plashet really and figuratively basking in sunshine. All the family had been assembled then—all were again together; there was the same pleasant dwelling, the same expanse of verdure, the same beloved ones to receive her—but all was changed. The countenance and effect of her mother at that time were emphatically her own—an expression of such intense suffering, and yet such immoveable peace. Her soft, full-toned voice, saddened yet sweet as ever; her chastened smile, whilst she could point to better days, and hopes to be fulfilled even in this life; and then the wonderful judgment—clear, discerning, and practical, with which she would enter into details so little suited for women, and without minutely following their different points, from her ready quickness arrive at true and just conclusions.

She had a quality difficult to describe, but marked to those who knew her well—the power of rapidly, and by a process of thought that she could herself hardly have explained, arriving at the truth, striking the balance, and finding the just weight of a doubtful question; nothing could be more valuable than this quality, under such circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Fry resolved upon at once leaving Plashet, and seeking a temporary home in St. Mildred's Court, then the residence of their eldest son. One immense mitigation attended this calamity, that the mercantile business formerly their grandfather's and conducted by their father, remained to the young men of the family, who were enabled by the important assistance of their mother's brothers to carry it on, and by this means aided by their uncles to re-establish their

parents in comparative comfort. With leaving Plashet came much that was sad—uprooting habits, long-formed tastes and local associations, parting with servants, and leaving many old pensioners and dependents.

The surrounding poor found a kind and judicious friend in the Vicar of East Ham (of which parish Plashet is a hamlet), to whom the living had very recently been presented. To him the schools hitherto supported by Mr. and Mrs. Fry, conjointly with William Morley, Esq. of Green Street House, were transferred, and in his hands, and under his care, they have since remained and flourished.

It was no easy thing to arrange for a very large family party, accustomed to country habits, and liberty of space, when confined to a city dwelling ; and that under circumstances of such peculiar pain. Mrs. Fry had for many years displayed singular wisdom and economy in her household arrangements, as well as in her charities and benevolent objects, varying according to the various circumstances in which she had been placed. To “be just before generous,” was a maxim often expressed to those around her. On this occasion these powers were called into full action. As the winter advanced, her health greatly failed. Circumstances occurred to weaken her husband and children’s attachment to the Society of Friends—truly the sorrows of her heart were enlarged. She exclaims in her journal (which was very irregularly kept), that her “soul was bowed down within her, and her eyes were red with weeping.” Yet was she enabled to adopt the language, “I will hope continually, and yet praise Thee more and more ;” and also to acknowledge

that she was much sustained inwardly, and that at times her heart was kept almost in perfect peace. But in addition to domestic trials, her tender feelings were at times grievously and unnecessarily wounded ; and from without there was much of bitterness infused into her daily cup, only to be appreciated by those who have had to bear the brunt of a similar calamity.

During that mournful winter in London, there were periods of peculiar suffering and anxiety. Mrs. Fry's own health being so shaken by her severe mental distresses, as nearly to confine her to her room with a bad cough. Her beloved and valued son William was on the bed of sickness from oppression of the brain, the result of an overstrained and exhausted mind. Shortly afterwards, her daughter-in-law was in the same house in an alarming state of illness, and a lady, who came to assist in nursing, was taken ill with the measles. The measles in a grown-up family becomes a serious disease. They were driven from London in consequence, though too late to escape the infection, and sought shelter in the vacant house at Plashet, which, for many weeks, became a scene of anxious nursing.

But it was shelter only which Plashet could afford them. The establishment broken up, the gardens neglected, the stables empty ; most desolate was the time passed there, and thankful were they when in June they were able to move to a small but commodious dwelling in Upton Lane, belonging to Mrs. Fry's brother, Mr. Gurney, and immediately contiguous to his own grounds.

Amidst her own personal sorrows and perplexities, Elizabeth Fry was cheered from time to time, by finding

that the subject so near her heart continued to prosper. At Berlin, a Committee of Ladies had been formed to visit prisons. Dr. Julius had informed her a few months before, of the publication of his "Lectures on the Improvement of Prison-discipline, and on the Moral Amendment of Prisoners." Prefixed to them, was a long and laborious introduction on the causes, number and different kinds of crime, in most of the countries of Europe and in America, with remarks on the most likely means of prevention.

The result of Dr. Julius's observations amounted to this—that in those countries where the education of the people is decidedly on a moral and religious basis, crime diminishes ; but where instruction aims only at the increase of the means of wealth, and imparting human knowledge, there, crime increases.

From Madame la Marquise de Pastoret, she received interesting accounts of the efforts making in France, amongst pious and benevolent individuals, to benefit the unfortunate. In a letter addressed to Miss Fry, that lady mentions some of the existing associations, and still further enlarges on the subject in another communication to Mrs. Fry of later date.

Differing essentially, as do the Protestant churches from that of Rome, they may yet learn from her in the performance of practical duties towards their fellow-creatures. In countries as our own, where the laity have no human interposition between God and their own consciences, where education freely flows forth to all, where the Bible is to be found up and down in the lanes and streets of our cities, what might not be effect-

ed, if the spirit of self-sacrifice and self-devotion that is to be met with in the prisons and hospitals of Roman Catholic countries, more generally prevailed !

What is there in our Protestant institutions to prevent sisters of mercy—devoted ones of the female sex—being wholly given to such works ; or amongst the more busy part of mankind, hours and periods taken from the needful occupations of life, and devoted to good deeds ? In the patient teacher of the ragged school, in the laborious district visitor, who threads his way through the endless mazes and foul air of the worst parts of our metropolis, we recognise the dawn of a better day ; nor is this hope diminished by the fact, that it is not alone in the middle classes, but amongst the sons of our nobles and our statesmen, and amongst those nobles themselves, that may be found the most resolute and persevering in their labours of love. An immense stimulus is given to acts of charity, amongst the members of the Church of Rome, by their favourite dogma, that “good works” can be performed to the exceeding benefit of the individual, and the covering of many sins ; but he who simply takes the Bible as the rule of life, and receives the words of scripture in their direct and literal meaning, there learns, that from the moment he has received the Lord Christ into his heart, his time, and talents, and powers, are consecrated to His service—not to the exclusion of any relative or domestic duty, nor to the neglect of his outward calling, but to the consideration of what may be required of him individually for the service of God, and the good of his fellow-men. Were this spirit more devoutly entertained, and more practically exercised in England

—civilized, educated, reflecting as she is—how new an aspect would her children wear ; misery and crime would stalk no longer unhidden through the land, tenderness and sympathy would be offered to the afflicted, counsel and wise reproof to the offender. The best regulated and well-planned institution is but a body without a soul, whilst rules and regulations are enforced, unaccompanied by personal influence or individual communication. The prisoner, the lunatic, the hospital patient, require these to touch the heart, to reach the mental malady, or give confidence under suffering and painful treatment.

Prussia has shown what may be accomplished in various Protestant Institutions of extensive and increasing usefulness. Her recognition of the Diaconate has undoubtedly tended to this result, and taking in their full sense of the words "Kings and priests unto God," she has led the way in showing the practical benefits that must accrue, from using the laity as agents for religious instruction, as well as employing them in general education, and the care of the helpless and suffering. Very frequently did Elizabeth Fry urge upon others the importance of these acts of benevolence. She believed that not merely were they blessed to the receiver ; but to the giver "twice blessed." Earnest were her desires, and strong her hopes, that English men, and English women, would increasingly awake to their responsibilities, that they would not rest content with subscribing of their abundance, or even of their penury, to refuges, to hospitals, and schools, but that they would give of that which is more precious—of time, sympathy, communion be-

tween man and man, and mind with mind. For how admirable would be the results, could the well-planned Protestant institutions of Great Britain be visited, and cared for, and watched over, by spontaneous benevolence and unpaid services, with something of the love, and of the zeal, which can illumine even the dark regions of Popery.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of her marriage-day was a sorrowful one to her.

Eighth Month, 29th, 1829.—Our wedding-day ! twenty-nine years since we married ! My texts for the morning are applicable :—“ Our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”—“ We walk by faith, not by sight.” As far as we can judge from external appearances, mine has not been a common life. He who seeth in secret, only knows the unutterable depths and sorrows, I have had to pass through, as well as at other times, I may almost say, joys inexpressible and full of glory. I have now had so many disappointments in life, that my hopes, which have so long lived strong, that I should see much brighter days in it, begin a little to subside, and my desire is, more entirely to look beyond the world, for that which can alone fully satisfy me ; and not to have my heart so much set upon the things of this life ; or even those persons nearest to me, but more set upon the life to come ; and upon Him who is faithful, and will be all in all to His dependent ones. At the same time I desire faithfully to perform all my relative duties ; and may my heart be kept in tender love to all near to me.

More touching still is her record of an incident some weeks afterwards :—

Upton, Tenth Month, 21st.—On First-day, we were rather suddenly summoned to Plashet House, to attend Anna Golder (aunt to my faithful Chrissy), who had charge of the house. She was one of the lowly, retired humble walkers before the Lord ; she was suddenly taken very ill, and died in half-an-hour after her niece arrived. It was apparently a departure without sting to mind or body ; as far therefore as it respected her, all was peace. But to myself it was different. I arrived there after dark, drove once more into the dear old place—no one to meet me but the poor man who lived in the house, no dog to bark, nor any life nor sound as used to be. Death seemed over the place, such was the silence, until I found myself up stairs, in the large and once cheerful and full house. When I entered the bed-room, there lay the corpse, in her gown, she having died in her chair, only our washerwoman and the woman who lived in the house in the room besides. Circumstances combined to touch some very tender feelings, and the inclination of my heart was to bow down upon my knees before the Lord ; thankful, surely, for the release of the valued departed—but deeply and affectingly impressed with such a change ! that once lively, sweet, cheerful home, left desolate—the abode of Death—and two or three watchers. It brought, as my visits to Plashet often have done, the hymn to my mind :—

“ Lord, why is this ? I trembling, cried.”

Then again I find I can do nothing, but bow, trust, and

depend upon that Power, that has, I believe, thus seen meet to visit us in judgment as well as in mercy.

31st (*A few days later*).—Since I last wrote I have been called to another death-bed scene ; our old and valued Roman Catholic friends, the Pitchfords, have lost their eldest son, a sweet good boy. I felt drawn in love, I trust, I may say, Christian love, to be much with them during their trial ; I felt it right to leave my family, and spend First-day evening with them, when all hope of the child's life was given up. I had not only to sympathise with them in their deep sorrow, but to pour forth my prayer on their behalf. The next day, I was with the poor child when he died, and was nearly the whole day devoted to them. We had a deeply interesting time after his death—my dear friends themselves, all their children, their mother, sister, and old nurse. My mouth was remarkably opened in prayer and praises, indeed all day, at their house, something of a holy influence appeared to be over us. A fresh living proof, that what God had cleansed, we are not to call or to feel common nor unclean. It surely matters not by what name we call ourselves, or what outward *means* we may think right to use, if our hearts are but influenced by the love of Christ, and cleansed by His baptism, and strengthened by His Spirit, to prove our faith by love and good works. With ceremonies, or without ceremonies, if there be but an establishment upon the Rock of Ages, all will be well. Although I am of opinion, the more our religion is pure, simple, and devoid of these outward forms, the better and the safer for us ; at the same time, I do earnestly desire a more full union

amongst all Christians, less judging one another, and a general acknowledgment, in heart, judgment, and word, of the universality of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In December Mrs. Fry was called into Norfolk to attend the sick-bed of her most beloved niece, Priscilla Buxton,* who was dangerously ill; to her she administered spiritual help, and the most judicious nursing. Referring to this illness especially, she describes her aunt's skill in a sick room as "peculiar indeed; her very presence and aspect as perfectly calming—possessing an authority mixed with soothing tenderness, which gave her a most helpful power, quieting both body and mind by her judicious, and always indulgent advice, and by her unfailing power of hoping, perhaps too well," "yet under feelings of need and discouragement, what an instrument for good!" She speaks of her "as condescending to the humblest services," recalls "her soft hand, her exquisite reading, and delicious company," concluding, "Oh that we could hear her, feel her, see her once more!"

On the road, Mrs. Fry saw a man lying apparently at the point of death. She went to him, desiring her daughter, who was with her, to open her dressing-case and bring a vial of brandy, which, from her frequent attendance in sickness, she had learned always to have in readiness. She knelt down by the poor man, whose head she found dreadfully torn; she carefully replaced the scalp which was lying back, tied it down with her pocket-handkerchief, then gave him brandy, and he began to revive. After a time a cart came by, into

* Afterwards Mrs. Andrew Johnston.

which she had him lifted, and carefully conveyed to the next village. He had been driving a powerful team of horses—they ran away, and the waggon-wheel went over his head. He died in Norwich Hospital, after lingering some weeks, apparently ready for that solemn change.

Her return home was clouded from finding that her beloved son William, who had been under every circumstance a firm support and great comfort to her, now thought it best for himself, to lay aside the peculiarities of the Society of Friends in dress and manners; he having come to the conclusion, that unless conformity to them arose from personal conviction of their importance, however becoming in a very young person under the immediate direction of his parents, their practice was inconsistent with truth in one of more mature years.

Writing on this subject, she says:—

Upton, Twelfth Month, 24th.—I truly desire not to be unreasonable upon the subject, or to require of my dearest William, at his age, that which his own judgment does not dictate. Beyond a certain point, I have believed it right not to press it; and oh, if I thus take from him my yoke and my bonds, may the Lord take him up and put His yoke upon him. Oh! most merciful Lord God, hearken to the earnest prayer of Thy servant for this dear child; make him Thine own, prepare him in Thine own way for Thine own service, grant that through Thy help and Thy power he may wax valiant in the Christian warfare, until all his enemies be wholly subdued before him; and if consistent with Thy holy will, make him in his own family an instrument to draw

others nearer to Thee and Thy kingdom. Lord God, make no tarrying, but visit and revisit my family ; lead them more from the vanities of time, to the enduring riches of eternity ; keep also Thy very unworthy servant alive unto Thyself, even yet make her joyful in Thy house of prayer, and more faithful in the field of offering, and let Thy grace continually rest upon us. Amen !

Early in 1830, we find this entry in Mrs. Fry's journal, " my time has lately been much occupied in writing my text book." She had long felt the difficulty of young people generally, and older ones in active life, possessing themselves of any scriptural instructions, before commencing the employments of the day. The experience of life had infinitely confirmed her value of the written word. She deplored the feeling, wherever she met with it, that the Bible was to be approached as a sort of sacred mystery, to be applied to only occasionally, and with something almost amounting to awe.

At the period of Mrs. Fry's early life, this was too much the case amongst Friends, nor was a circumscribed use of the holy scriptures, by any means confined to that body. How much more general now, than fifty years ago, is the habit of reading the word of God in families ; how much more universal its close and individual study. But Mrs. Fry considered, that there was something more wanted, to enable those, who have but a short period for a hasty toilette before an early breakfast, still to taste of the spiritual manna provided, and to have a portion of holy writ, however short, impressed upon their minds.

Amidst her numerous avocations, she found time to

select a passage of scripture for every day in the year. She endeavoured to combine in it, that which is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness ; and in a little preface, she urged the importance of endeavouring to appropriate the truths contained in it, with a heart uplifted, that the blessed Spirit might apply the word ; and concludes, " The rapid and ceaseless passing away of the days and weeks, as well as the months of the year, as numbered at the head of each day's text, it is hoped may prove a memento of the speed with which time is hastening on, and remind the reader of the importance of passing it as a preparation for eternity, in the service of God and for the benefit of mankind." As soon as her little work* was finished, she began its distribution ; thousands and thousands did she give away, besides multitudes that were otherwise circulated. Where have not these little text books penetrated, from the monarch's gilded hall, to the felon's dungeon ?

Many instances of their usefulness came to light, but one only shall be mentioned here. Two or three years after their publication, a text book, bound in red leather, which she had given to a little grandson, fell out of his pocket at the Lynn Mart, where he had gone to visit the lions. He was a very little boy, and much disconcerted at the loss of his book, for his name was in it, and that it was the gift of his grandmother, written by herself. The transaction was almost forgotten, when, nearly a

* Text Book by Elizabeth Fry, published by Charles Gilpin, Bishopsgate Street without.

year afterwards, the Rev. Richardson Cox, the clergyman of Watlington, a parish about eight miles from Lynn, gave the following history of the lost book :—He had been sent for to the wife of a man, living on a wild common at the outskirts of his parish, a notorious character, between poacher and ratcatcher. The message was brought to the clergyman by the medical man who attended her, and who, after describing her as being most strangely altered, added—“ You will find the lion become a lamb ;” and so it proved : she, who had been wild and rough, whose language had been violent, and her conduct untamed, lay on a bed of exceeding suffering, humble, patient, and resigned.

Her child had picked up the text book, and carried it home as lawful spoil. Curiosity, or some feeling put into her heart, by Him without whose leave a sparrow falleth not to the ground, had induced her to read it ; the word had been blessed to her, and her understanding opened to receive the gospel of truth. She could not describe the process, but the results were there. Sin had in her sight become hateful ; blasphemy was no longer heard from her lips. She drew from under her pillow “ her precious book,” her “ dear little book,” which had “ taken away the fear of death.” She died soon afterwards, filled with joy and hope in believing, having in these detached portions of scripture found a Saviour, all sufficient to bear her heavy burden of guilt, and present her, clad in his own spotless righteousness, before the throne of God.

Probably, of the thousands of text books given by Mrs. Fry, no two were ever offered with the same words.

Her adaptation to all states, ages, and conditions, in her intercourse with her fellow creatures, was one of her means of power ; always courteous, invariably self-possessed, but ever displaying an exquisite tact, and most acute perception of position, circumstance, character, and the best method of approach. That her skill in dealing with others was partly intuitive, no one can doubt ; that her compassionate feelings were unusually strong, is equally obvious ; but her highest power was unquestionably derived from the knowledge she had obtained of the heart of man, greatly, if not chiefly, from the close study of her own, its feelings, and tendencies. After an evening with Mr. Buxton and her sister, in London, about this time, where she had met a large and congenial party, she reviews herself and her own doings, in a note written the following morning.

“ I passed a very low night, because I felt last evening I was made too much of ; it gave me *real pain* my being put more forward than ——. I also feared I had put myself forward, and it led me to say in my heart— ‘ I abhor myself, as in dust and ashes ! ’ or to that effect. I have hardly yet recovered the effect of it, though I partly attribute it to a nervous state from fatigue, that I saw things through too strong a medium ; yet it afresh brought me to feel, what should we do, were not a fountain opened for the uncircumcised and the unclean ? I think I hardly can go to such parties. I am almost sure to be low after them, under the deep feeling of (my own) short coming.”

CHAPTER XIV.

BRIGHTON—DEATH OF A LITTLE GRANDCHILD—OF A NEPHEW OF HER
 UNCLE, JOSEPH GURNEY—SUMMONS TO KING'S LYNN—INTERVIEW
 WITH THE DUCHESS OF KENT AND THE PRINCESS VICTORIA—
 YEARLY MEETING—LADIES' PRISON SOCIETY MEETING—INTRO-
 DUCATION TO QUEEN ADELAIDE—DAGENHAM—PUBLIC MEETINGS
 IN THAT NEIGHBOURHOOD—JOURNEY WITH MR. FRY—ILFRACOMBE
 —HISTORY OF SAMUEL MARSHALL—DEATH OF MRS. SARAH FRY—
 OPINIONS OF CHOICE IN MARRIAGE—WELSH HALF-YEAR'S MEET-
 ING—CROSSES TO IRELAND—MARRIAGE OF A SON—OF A DAUGHTER
 —VISIT TO NORFOLK.

IN October, 1830, Mrs. Fry, accompanied by her brother, Samuel Gurney, visited some of the meetings of Friends in Sussex. At Brighton she attended the Friends Meeting on Sunday morning, and in the evening held a public one for persons of different persuasions. She had an interview with the Countess Brownlow, and through her communicated a message of serious import to Queen Adelaide. Her own account of this visit to Brighton is too descriptive and complete to allow of curtailment.

My prayer for the King and Queen was, that a blessing might rest upon them ; that they might be strengthened by the Spirit of God to do His will, and live to His glory (or to that purpose) ; then for the Queen, I felt the great importance of her situation, that she was indeed like a city set upon a hill, amongst women ; and

my desire for her was, that her light might so shine before men, that they, seeing her good works, might glorify our Father who is in heaven. I expressed my desire that, for the good of the community, she might promote the education of the poor, the general distribution of the scriptures, and the keeping the Sabbath seriously, by discouraging parties, etc. etc., on that day amongst the higher ranks, as I was sure the tendency of them was very injurious to the lower classes, and the community at large. Then I touched on the anti-slavery subject, and the abolition of capital punishment, and presented for the Queen, my brother Joseph's Essays, also his Peculiarities of Friends, and my little book on visiting Prisons.

On Fourth-day morning, after several calls, and attending a Bible Meeting, we dined with some Friends very agreeably, and in the evening went to our kind friends the Elliots, who invited about seventy persons to meet us on account of the District Society. It was truly encouraging to me, to hear what wonders it had done for that place. We had a delightful meeting, a great variety of Christians present, and so much goodwill and unity felt, that it comforted my heart. At its close, our dear and valued friends, Charles Simeon and Joseph Hughes, gave us some sweet religious counsel. I felt the power such, that I could not help following them, and found that "out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh"—giving glory to the Lord. As far as I can see, how much more marked a blessing has attended my benevolent labours for public good, than any other labours of love that I have been enabled

to perform in my own house, or amongst my own people.

On Fifth-day, several of the higher classes were invited to Meeting, and to my own feelings, a remarkable time we surely had ; it appeared as if we were overshadowed by the love and mercy of God our Saviour. The ministry flowed in beautiful harmony, I deeply felt the want of local prayer being offered, but I did not see it my place upon our Meeting assembling together, when, to my inexpressible relief, John Rickman powerfully and beautifully offered up thanksgiving and prayer, which appeared to arise as incense and as an acceptable sacrifice. After a time of silence, I rose with this text—“ There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit ; differences of administration, but the same Lord ; diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all.” In a way that it never did before, the subject opened to my view whilst speaking ; how did I see and endeavour to express the lively bond of union existing in the Christian Church, and that the humbling tendering influence of the love and power of Christ, must lead us not to condemn our neighbours, but to love and cover all with charity. My sister, E. Fry, was rather closely and differently led, and I had to end the Meeting by praying for the King, Queen, and all their subjects every where ; for the advancement of that day, when the knowledge of God and His glory would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea ; for those countries in Europe that are in a disturbed state, and that these shakings might eventually be for good. After a most solemn feeling of union the Meeting broke up.

We dined at our dear friends the Elliots, where were Charles Simeon, Henry Elliot (valuable clergymen), and others. A pleasant, sweet, refreshing time we had ; I think I never feel so able to rejoice in the Lord, as when united with real Christians of different denominations. We went that night to Chichester, and slept at Maria Hack's, and were much interested by her and her family, some of whom have joined the Church of England ; but they appeared to us truly valuable and serious, and we were much pleased with our visit.

I have been thus full in the account of this journey, because it is, I think, well in this way to leave some memorial of the tender dealings of my gracious Lord and Master with me, when engaged in His service.

November and December brought a succession of sorrows to many beloved by Mrs. Fry, though not immediately affecting herself. Her comments upon the results of religious instruction, combined with Christian liberty, prove how much experience and observation had enlarged her views on this important subject.

Upton, Eleventh Month, 3rd.—We returned home yesterday from Bury Hill, where my brother Samuel and myself went on Seventh-day, in consequence of the death of my dear uncle Barclay, whose funeral we attended the preceding Sixth-day, when thirteen of his children and children-in-law attended. It was to me very affecting, following the remains of this dear uncle to the grave, who was such a kind, generous friend, and helper to me. It is very striking to see one generation so nearly gone ; so many of us, now entering the evening of our day, and our children and childrens' children

coming up after us. Life thus passing away "as a tale that is told."

Twelfth Month, 7th, 1830.—May I be enabled so to give an account of the various dealings of the Almighty with me and mine, that it may be useful to some, at least to my most beloved children and children's children. I have to begin with rather a melancholy tale:—My beloved children, Foster and Richenda Reynolds, lost their sweet baby upon the 4th of last month, after a few days severe illness. Death is awful and affecting, come as it may; and this I truly felt, when seeing the sweet babe in its coffin, still retaining its beautiful colour. I could not but feel the uncertainty of all our possessions, yet the comfort that death had only entered our family and taken one for whom we could feel no fear for the future. At her grave, the desire was very strong within me, that we might all become like little children, fit to enter the kingdom of God, being washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Since then, my dear nephew, Harry Buxton, has been called hence. His end appeared in no common degree peace, if not joy in the Lord. He was about seventeen years of age—a remarkable instance of the care and religious instruction of parents being blessed; he was greatly protected through life, from any evil influences, and most carefully and diligently instructed by his dear mother, particularly in all religious truth. He was a child, who in no common degree appeared to be kept from evil, and live in the fear and love of the Lord; he was cheerful, industrious, clever, very agreeable, and of a sweet person—a very deep trial it is to his dear parents to lose him. Still I feel as if I could give up all

my sons to be in such a state ; but I may be mistaken in this, and perhaps my Lord may yet be pleased to raise them up to His service here below, which would be even a greater blessing than having them taken in the morning of the day. I think the way in which the children of my sisters turn out, proves the efficacy of much religious instruction, and not too much religious restraint. It certainly is a very serious thing, to put upon young persons any crosses in their religious course, that Christ does not call them to bear !

First Month, 11th.—When dressing, last First-day fortnight, Atterton came in to tell me, that my dear and valued uncle Joseph Gurney had suddenly dropped down dead at his house at the Grove, near Norwich, my aunt only with him at the time. It exceedingly affected me, for he was very dear to me, and more like a father than any one living ; he was one in whom the religious life was beautifully manifested, more particularly in his humility, in his cheerfulness and in his obedience. He was a lively minister of the gospel, a valuable and a delightful man, and his loss is indeed very great to those nearest to him as well as to many others. I had a painful struggle to know whether I ought to go to his funeral or not. However, I decided to go, in which I felt peace, and then could leave it all comfortably. I have seldom of late felt more discouraged from a deep sense of the evil of my own heart, than when I first arrived at Earlham. There are times, when with my brothers and sisters particularly, the contrast of my circumstances with theirs pains me ; the mode of my feeling these things oppressed me. I walked alone through some beautiful parts of Earlham,

and how did it remind me of days that are past! The sun shone brightly, and hardly a tree, a walk, or a view, but brought interesting remembrances before me; how many gone! how many changes! and then how far was I ready for my great change? It was New Year's Day; little did I expect to keep it there. I returned home, wrote to my husband and children, and poured out a little of my heart to them. I went to the Grove—felt my much-loved uncle being *really gone*—all changed there. I went to Norwich to call on a few sick, &c.; the place the same, but again how changed to me! However, as my dearest family assembled, I became more comfortable.

The excitement occasioned by Mrs. Fry's first visits to Newgate, the strangeness of ladies visiting prisons, the astonishment of the public mind at finding the sin engendered and the misery permitted, within the prison walls of Christian and enlightened England, had indeed passed; but a steady, resolute spirit of improvement was making its way, and men from all classes and all parties, were coming over and ranking themselves amongst the labourers, or at least the well-wishers to progressive improvements.

Sir Robert Peel had been for years grappling with the difficulties of the criminal code respecting forgery, and had, during the last Sessions, presented to Parliament his acts for consolidating its various sanguinary enactments. The subject had become one of general interest; and after many discussions, a majority of the House of Commons voted for the abolishment of the punishment of death, in all cases of forgery. These clauses were

restored in the Lords, notwithstanding a petition signed by a thousand bankers, supporting the vote of the Commons. The effect, practically, however of this assertion of public opinion was, that the extreme sentence of the law in cases of forgery was not again carried into execution.

Thus, the work was advancing—but much remained to be done. He who set fire to a stack of bean-stalks in an outlying field was still to lose his life, whilst he who burnt a helpless family in their beds, could have no greater punishment awarded him. Again, the half-starved peasant, who carried home the sheep he found fallen and bruised in a neighbouring ditch, was to endure the same fate as the man who might waylay the farmer on his return from market, despoil him of his well-earned gains, and then to prevent detection, leave him lifeless, weltering in his blood by the road side.

The Prison Discipline Society continued its exertions. The greater number of county prisons, were either rebuilt or remodelled, and classification and occupation introduced. Amongst female prisoners, officers of their own sex were becoming increasingly general.

Many of the Borough gaols and Scotch prisons continued, however, in their former state of neglect, wretchedness, and promiscuous intercourse amongst the prisoners; but there were exceptions, as for instance, at Derby and Leicester, where the Borough magistrates purchased the old County prisons, after the removal of the prisoners to the admirable new County gaols erected there. At Penzance, a new town prison was built; at Barnstaple, the old one had been rebuilt. A new gaol was erected

at Norwich. The Yarmouth prison remained unaltered in cells, and yards, and hired management, but under the teaching of Sarah Martin, and her devoted labours of love, wonderful results were produced, and an admirable lesson taught to her country-women, of what may be effected by kindness, perseverance and discretion, under circumstances the most adverse and difficult.

It was about this time, that Elizabeth Fry received from Hamburgh an application, that a copy of her likeness might be engraved for an Almanac published by Beyerink, entitled "For that which is Beautiful and Good."

With this, was sent to her, a translation of some lines inserted in the "Almanac for the Beautiful and Good."

"1830.—Though faithful to her duty, as a wife and mother, into the night of the prison Elizabeth Fry brings the radiance of love—brings comfort to the sufferer, dries the tears of repentance, and causes a ray of hope to descend into the heart of the sinner. She teaches her that has strayed, again to find the path of virtue, comes as an angel of God into the abode of crime, and preserves for Jesu's kingdom that which appeared to be lost. Is not this, indeed, what may be called, loving our neighbour more than one's self?—*Leenwaarden, September 1829.*"

The last day of January brought Mrs. Fry accounts of the severe illness of one of her daughters, and the following morning saw her, through most inclement weather, setting forth to go to her.

Upton, Second Month, 12th.—I returned last evening from Earlham with my dear brother Joseph, having been suddenly called into Norfolk, in consequence of my

dearest Rachel's alarming illness. I heard of it late on Second-day week, and set off to her on the Third-day morning ; the snow so great, I was stopped on the road, and slept at Ely. Upon my arrival at Lynn, the next day, I found my child going on favourably. The pleasure is great of having with my children the double tie, not only of mother and children, but a friendship formed upon its own grounds. I certainly think, that in no common degree, my children feel me their familiar friend.

An interview in April with her country's future Sovereign, was followed in May, by close attendance at the Friends' Yearly Meeting, and soon afterwards by the Ladies' British Society Meeting, for the Reformation of Female Prisoners. Mrs. Fry also records a gratifying introduction to Queen Adelaide, and other Members of the Royal Family.

Fifth Month, 14th.—About three weeks ago, I paid a very satisfactory visit to the Duchess of Kent, and her very pleasing daughter, the Princess Victoria. William Allen went with me. We took some books on the subject of slavery, with the hope of influencing the young princess in that important cause. We were received with much kindness and cordiality, and I felt my way open to express, not only my desire that the best blessing might rest upon them, but that the young princess might follow the example of our blessed Lord, that as she "grew in stature, she might grow in favour with God and man." I also ventured to remind her of King Josiah, who began to reign at eight years old, and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, turning neither to the right hand nor to the left, which seemed

to be well received. Since that, I thought it right to send the Duke of Gloucester my brother Joseph's work on the Sabbath, and rather a serious letter, and had a very valuable answer from him, full of feeling. I have an invitation to visit the Duchess of Gloucester next Fourth-day ; may good result to them, and no harm to myself ; but I feel these openings rather a weighty responsibility, and desire to be faithful, not forward. I had long felt an inclination to see the young princess, and endeavour to throw a little weight in the right scale, seeing the very important place that she is likely to fill. I was much pleased with her, and think her a sweet, lovely and hopeful child.

Sixth Month 3rd.—The yearly Meeting concluded this day week. I was highly comforted by the good spirit manifested in it by numbers. I think I never was so much satisfied by the ground Friends took ; leading us to maintain what we consider our testimonies upon a scriptural and Christian ground, rather than because our forefathers maintained them. My opinion is, that nothing is so likely to cause our Society to remain a living and spiritual body, as its being willing *to stand open to improvement* ; because, it is to be supposed, that as the Church generally, emerges out of the dark state it was brought into, its light will shine brighter and brighter, and we, as a part of it, shall partake of this dispensation. My belief is, that neither individuals nor collective bodies should *stand still* in grace, but their light should shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. My dearest brother Joseph had a valuable meeting for the youth, further to instruct them in Friends' prin-

ciples, which delighted me ; he was so clear, so sound, so perfectly scriptural and Christian, and so truly in the spirit of charity and *sound* liberality, *not laxity*.

25th.—I must give an account of the British Society Meeting. It was, I trust, well got through, and I feel the way in which its objects prosper, cause for humble thankfulness. Surely the result of our labour has hitherto been beyond my most sanguine expectation, as to the improved state of our prisons, female convict ships, and the convicts in New South Wales. I desire to feel this blessing and unmerited mercy towards us, and those poor creatures, as I ought, in humility and true thankfulness of heart. The day before yesterday, I had a very satisfactory interview with the Queen and several of the Royal Family, in rather a remarkable manner. There was a sale on account of the Hospital Ship in the River, in which I was interested ; and hearing that the Queen was to be there, whom I wished to see, I went ; but was so much discouraged when I arrived, by the gaiety of the occasion, that I should have turned back, had not my sister Catherine made me persevere. We saw the Queen and her party, and quickly passed through the gay scene. When we got out, we found ourselves with a valuable friend of mine, Captain Young, in a quiet airy place, at the head of the staircase ; we were told by him, that the Queen would go down that way, and we should have an excellent view of her. We therefore waited until some of the royal family came down ; their carriages not being ready they withdrew into a private room, where Captain Young admitted us ; the Duchess of Gloucester met me with her usual kind-

ness, and presented me to the Duchess of Cumberland. The Princess, sister to the Queen, Prince George of Cumberland and Prince George of Cambridge were there with them. The Duchess of Gloucester soon withdrew, and the Queen's sister and I had rather a full conversation together with the Duchess of Cumberland and Prince George. Then came the Duke of Sussex and the Princess of Hesse Homburg; the Duke appeared pleased to see me, and we had a good deal of conversation; the Duke said he would present me to the Queen, who soon came into the room, with the Princess Augusta, whom I knew; he did so in the handsomest manner, and the Queen paid me very kind and marked attention. I had some conversation with the Queen, almost entirely on benevolent objects. I expressed my pleasure in seeing the Royal Family so much interested in these things; my belief that it did much good, and that being engaged in them brought peace and blessing. I was enabled to keep to my simple mode of speech as I believe right, and yet to show them every respect and polite attention. I did not enter religious subjects with any of them, though I trust the bearing of my conversation was that way. We spoke with the Princess Elizabeth, of Friends, of the love her father George III. had for them, his visit to our great-grandfather Barclay, my meeting Queen Charlotte in the city, and many other things. My dearest sister Catherine's simple boldness brought me into the room, and made me go through the thing; her company was delightful, helpful and strengthening. It was a very singular opening, thus to meet those, some of whom I so much wanted to see—it is curious, but for

days I had it on my mind to endeavour to see the Queen, and by night and day seriously had weighed it, lest my motives should not be right ; but when I remembered, that from not having been presented to her, I could never on any point communicate with her in person, I felt that if there should be an opportunity to put myself in her way, I had better do it. It was striking, how the whole thing was opened for me, I may say providentially ; for already I believe some good has been done by seeing one of the party, and I look upon it as a very important event in my public objects for the good of others. Afterwards, I felt as I mostly do, after any thing of this kind, rather anxious, and extremely fearful for myself, how far it was safe for me thus to be cast among the great of this world ; how far it was even right to put myself in the way of it, and how far others would judge me for it ; however, the next day, my mind was much quieted, my fears much allayed, and my present sober view is, that it was a remarkable opening, and my desire, that it may please the Most High to bless it, that good may result from it. I lately have had a deeply interesting visit to a female convict ship ; surrounded as I am at such times by poor sailors, and convicts, it is impossible not to feel the contrast of the circumstances in which I am placed. The last time I was in the ship *Mary*, there was such a scene round me—parting from them, probably for ever. So many tears were shed, so much feeling displayed ;—and almost all present the low and the poor. Then, within a few days to be in such a scene of gaiety, though the object in view was good ; surrounded by royalty and the great of this earth. The

contrast was striking and instructive. I ought surely to profit from the uncommon variety that I see, and the wonderful changes that I have experienced in being raised up, and cast down. Oh ! may it not prove in vain for myself and others.

Notwithstanding many family cares, and the weighty objects in which she was engaged, the summer of this year, which was passed at Dagenham, proved a very happy one. The two cottages were fully peopled ; the larger one inhabited by Mr. and Mrs. Fry, and as many of their home party as it could be made to contain ; the smaller cottage was lent to a married daughter, and received the overflowings from the other house. The first burst of the calamity in 1828 had passed away. The younger members of the family had been transplanted sufficiently early to take root at Upton Lane ; but with their parents and the elder children it was far different. Dagenham, on the contrary, was not new to any of them ; though the arrangements there were different, the associations were the same. Pleasant was it in the quiet of a summer evening to listen from the larger boat, especially appropriated to their mother, and bearing her name, to the voices of the younger party as they rose and fell in cadence, singing the burthen of some old song to the dipping of their oars. Mr. Fry and his sons generally spent the morning in London, but about the time when the heat of a summer day is beginning to abate, the ladies and children looked for their return. One of the little watchers would announce that the boat sent to meet them was in sight, and then the expectant party poured out of their cottages. Foremost in the group, and

conspicuous from her stature, she might be seen, whose smile was ever ready to greet them, her gentle voice to bid them welcome. An unbroken band, they met in love, abounding in hope ; with life before most of them, coloured by the prismatic hues of youthful fancy ; even she, who had suffered so much, and encountered so many disappointments, would catch their tone, and join with delight in the feelings of the party and the scene around her.

During this summer (1831), Mrs. Fry believed it her duty to hold some meetings in the neighbourhood of Dagenham, for the middle and lower classes. They were very numerously attended, and excited much interest and attention : afterwards, she established Libraries for Books and Tracts in many of the villages around.

Genial and pleasing was her reception ; “ the Clergyman and his wife almost loading them with kindness, the farmers and their wives very kind and attentive, the poor the same. I felt how sweet it is to be on good terms with all—one day drinking tea at the parsonage, abounding with plate, elegancies, and luxuries, the next day at the humble Methodist shoemaker’s, they having procured a little fresh butter, that I might take tea under their roof. The contrast was great, but I can indeed see the same kind Lord over all, rich to all, and filling the hearts of His servants of very different descriptions, with love to each other.”

In the autumn, Mrs. Fry accompanied her husband into some of the South-Western Counties. She was greatly alarmed at Barnstaple, by the non-arrival of the steam-packet in which she expected one of her sons ;

she was enabled to attend the Meeting of Friends, and ministered to the needs of others. On returning afterwards to the friend's house, where she was to dine, the tidings met her of her son's safety—she thought she “might say, her heart rejoiced, and leaped for joy.”

A singular adventure was narrated to her at Ilfracombe, doubly interesting after her recent anxiety. “A woman asked me at Ilfracombe, if I should like to see a poor man, who was wrecked, and had had a very wonderful escape, the night before Gurney was on the sea. Of course I assented, and Gurney, the woman and I, set off to see him. When we arrived at his cottage, we found a very fine, rather tall young man, who appeared to have been much bruised, shaken, and wounded; with a nice looking young woman, his wife: the house very clean, and a few books; but one particularly struck our attention—a Bible, with an inscription upon it, in gilt letters, to this effect—“In commemoration of the courageous conduct of Samuel Marshall, in saving the lives of two women, (who had been out on a Sunday party, a third was drowned) off the pier at Ilfracombe.” It appeared by the short history of this young man, that he had from his great courage, good swimming, and kindness to others, been at different times the means of saving eight lives at least; he had gone out to ships in danger, near Ilfracombe, where, from the rocky nature of the coast, there often are shipwrecks.

His own simple story told to Mrs. Fry was as follows:—He was fishing in a small boat with two other men; about twelve o'clock at night, a sudden squall or land wind blew from between the hills; he called out to his

companions, "we are lost;" the boat capsized; they, poor fellows, prayed for mercy, and sunk. Marshall, knowing his great power of swimming, would not give himself up, but caught hold of an oar, which proved to be a good one, nearly new; and although he knew that he was a mile from the shore, and the sea, in consequence of this land wind, very boisterous, he felt it right at least to make the effort to reach land. He soon found, that with all his clothes on, it would be impossible, but how to take them off was the difficulty; his presence of mind appears to have been wonderful; he first got off his jacket, then his trowsers with extreme difficulty, because they became entangled in his feet; but, by a violent effort he succeeded; he then found he could not well get rid of his shirt, nor swim with it on. He was driven to great extremity, his shirt being a new stout cotton one—he therefore once more made a violent effort, and tore it down in front; but the hem was so strong, that he there stopped; this he put to his mouth, and bit it through. He then swam on until he nearly reached the shore, where the breakers ran so high, that he lost his oar; once more, he almost entirely gave up hope, but resolved on one last effort, and found himself thrown upon a rock, very seriously bruised. He climbed beyond the reach of the water, and laid himself down, cold, hungry, and exhausted, either to perish or to rest. He told me that, it being quite dark, he could not tell where he was cast ashore, but he was fully sensible that it must be where the rocky high cliffs could be only here and there climbed by man:—his anxiety was consequently great till day dawned, when he saw some sheep

feeding up the cliff side. He was sure that wherever sheep could go, he could climb. As his poor feet were sadly cut, he took his stockings, (which he still had on), and bound them round his feet with his garters ; with this exception, he ascended the rough cliff naked, his exhaustion and fatigue great indeed. After walking awhile, he arrived at a farm-house ; the farmer took him for a lunatic, and at first spoke to him sharply ; but soon finding his real case, he took him in, and treated him with the utmost hospitality. The farmer's wife prepared him a bed. I now stop my narrative, to say, that from my conversation with Samuel Marshall, I took him to be a man actuated by religious principles, but not possessing an enlightened understanding on these subjects ; one who endeavoured to do, as far as he knew it, his duty, which he had so remarkably shown in risking his own life to save the lives of others, particularly in the instance of the women, who were poor and unable to remunerate him. I was strongly reminded, in hearing of his deliverance, of these words of scripture—"with the merciful, Thou wilt show Thyself merciful." The poor man said, also, that he prayed constantly when the salt water was not in his mouth ; which showed, on the one hand, his value for prayer, and on the other, his ignorance in supposing, that when he could not speak, he would not be equally heard by Him, who looketh to the most secret desire of the heart. However, as I doubt not his prayers were offered in sincerity, they appear to have been accepted and answered. He was carried home to his sorrowful wife, who had heard of the boat being lost, and did not know that her husband was saved.

The mother of one of the other men, I found in the deepest distress, almost out of her mind. I tried to pour a little balm into her deep wounds, by endeavouring to lead her to look to Him, who can alone heal and help in our greatest trials.

But a few days remained to the end of the year, filled as it had been by incessant occupation, and much bodily fatigue, when another call was made upon Mrs. Fry.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, her sister-in-law, had continued to reside at Plashet, in a cottage which she had built on a part of the property many years before. With her lived an elder cousin, Mrs. Sarah Fry. She was one of kindly cheerful nature; the children, the poor, but especially any one in a scrape or difficulty, or a little in disgrace with the rest of the world, were sure to share her peculiar protection and kindness. Their pleasant residence was a happy retreat to the tired and invalided—in so much peace and quiet did they pursue the even tenor of their way. In peace and calm emphatically, was the journey of one of them now about to terminate.

Last Third day, I went to Plashet Cottage to see my dear sister Elizabeth Fry, and my cousin Sarah Fry, both of them ill in bed with severe colds. Dear cousin Sarah was full of lively conversation; I much enjoyed her company, and waiting on them both, and left them tolerably comfortable, but on Fourth day morning I was sent for in great haste, understanding that dear cousin Sarah was much more ill. When my husband and I arrived at the cottage, we found her dead. It was a considerable shock, and very affecting, still not without strong consolation on her account, for my belief is, that

she was one of the retired, humble, devoted believers in, and followers of the Lamb ; that she was indeed one of his redeemed ones, ready to depart and be with Him for ever. It was particularly sweet to observe the work of grace appear to increase with her years, and her light to shine brighter and brighter, as her outward powers declined. This always strikes me as a sure mark of living faith, because it is natural, as infirmities of body increase, for infirmity of mind and temper to increase also ; but it was very different with her ; the gentle and sweet, cheerful and lamblike spirit, appeared to abound more and more as her years increased. I could hardly help desiring, if ready, to be favoured with such a translation from time to eternity. My dear sister is very unwell, but much supported under this trial ; she says, that she has been shielded as on every side, and though unworthy of it, wonderfully upheld. This was one of those scenes I long to have pictured—the sweet appearance of dear Sarah Fry's remains lying by dear Elizabeth's side, who looked so wonderfully quiet and supported, though so very ill. It really was no common sight, the living and the dead thus together.

First Month, 2nd, 1832.—I think I have seldom entered a year with more feeling of weight than this. As the clock was striking twelve, the last year closing and this beginning, I found myself on my knees by my bedside, looking up to Him who had carried me and mine through the last year, and could only really be our Helper in this. We have had the subject of marriage much before us this last year ; it has brought us to some test of our feelings and principles respecting it. That it

is highly desirable and important to have young persons settle in marriage, particularly young men, I cannot doubt, and that it is one of the most likely means of their preservation, religiously, morally, and temporally. Moreover, it is highly desirable to settle with one of the same religious views, habits, and education, as themselves—more particularly for those who have been brought up as Friends, because their mode of education is peculiar; but if any young persons, upon arriving at an age of discretion, do not feel themselves really attached to our peculiar views and habits, then I think their parents have no right to use undue influence with them, as to the connections they may incline to form, provided they be with persons of religious lives and conversation. I am of opinion, that parents are apt to exercise too much authority upon the subject of marriage, and that there would be more really happy unions, if young persons were more left to their own feelings and discretion. Marriage is too much treated like a business concern, and love, that essential ingredient, too little respected in it. I disapprove the rule of our Society, that disowns persons for allowing a child to marry one not a Friend; it is a most undue and unchristian restraint, as far as I can judge of it.

I see and feel the present to be a stirring time in our family, and in our country also. The cholera is an anxious thing: the stir about the Reform Bill, the general spirit of insubordination amongst people, and the clashing amongst the highly-professing in the religious world, I consider also to be serious; but I do not take the violent alarm that some do, as to the state of the

times ; or as to any very great event being about to take place. Some are of opinion, that the second coming of our blessed Lord is just at hand. As we are sure, at all events, that He will soon come to us individually, may we above all things seek to be found ready for that day.

In August Elizabeth Fry attended the half-yearly Meeting of Friends in Wales, also some Meetings in Ireland, where she believed her mission had not been completed during her former journey. Before leaving home, she communicated her intention of visiting some of the county gaols to the Under Secretary of State, S. March Philips, Esq., and her wish to make arrangements, by which ladies might be allowed to attend to the female prisoners confined in them. She received a gratifying reply with permission to make its contents known, dated Home Office, August 10th, 1832, assuring her, that " Lord Melbourne was fully sensible of the good which had been done by herself, and the ladies connected with her, in many of the prisons ; and of the great benefits derived from their exertions, by the female transports ; and that his Lordship was anxious, that, as far as it could be done, the visiting magistrates should favourably entertain and second her benevolent intentions."

She was accompanied by her brother, Samuel Gurney, his eldest daughter, and her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Fry. They were absent five weeks ; the openings for usefulness very apparent ; their reception kind and cordial ; the weather favourable, and much of the country through which they passed beautiful ; but to Mrs. Fry, all these things were but as dust in the balance, compared

to the blessed belief that she was in her "right place," with, from time to time, "a feeling of almost unmixed peace." She was strengthened and refreshed by this journey. Matters of great import awaited her return, in the approaching marriages of two of her children. Her son William* was now, almost for the first time, about to quit his parents' dwelling. His mother subsequently beheld his advance in the Christian life—from year to year she marked his exemplary fulfilment of all the relations of husband, son, father, master, friend, and lived long enough to see "the place that had known him, know him no more." With her whole heart could she then acknowledge, that God had led him, although "by paths that she knew not, and by ways that she had not seen."

On the wedding morning, alone, not then seeing it consistent with her principles as a Friend to be present at the marriage of her son, she says:—This morning, we almost all assembled before breakfast, with one or two valuable dependants, and William Champion Streatfeild with us; I was enabled to exhort earnestly, and to pray fervently, not only for the beloved couple, but all the children, and those who were to be, or were already united to them, and for their children; for ourselves, household, etc.: it was a very solemn time, and I humbly trust that the presence of the Lord was with us. I desired also to return thanks for this dear son in giving him up from my care; that he had been so much

* October 3rd.—William Storrs Fry married Julia Sally, eldest daughter of Sir John Henry Pelly, Bart.

preserved from the evil which is in the world, that he had ever displayed such near love to me and to all of us, and had been so good a son to us. There is much to be thankful for respecting him, and though it has been a great disappointment his not marrying a Friend, yet there is also much to value in his connexion. I have a secret hope it may prove in the ordering of a kind Providence for his good. As for myself, I sit solitary in many things ; but I thought to-day (from this wedding bringing these things home to me)—Have I not my Lord as my friend, and my comforter ? and is He not as a husband to all the members of His church ? and am I not often satisfied and refreshed by His love ? I may indeed say I am—so that I am ready to trust, that the great and curious turnings and overturnings that my family have met with, will in the end work for good, through the love and unmerited mercy of God in Christ Jesus ; and that we may more and more all become one in Him ! Amen.

A month afterwards, another child was married. Mrs. Fry considered the case of a daughter different to that of a son, and the wedding taking place at her own house, that it was for her to remain at home.

Upton Lane, Eleventh Month, 5th.—Last Fourth day, the 31st of the Tenth Month, my dearest Hannah was married to William Champion Streatfeild.* The morning was bright, the different families collected—of course I was not present at the ceremony. The bride and bridegroom went to Ham House to take leave of their

* William Champion Streatfeild, of Chart's Edge, Kent,

dear party ; they then came home, and we soon sat down to breakfast, about thirty in number. There appeared a serious and yet cheerful feeling over us. I felt prayer for them, but saw no opportunity vocally to express it. As we arose to leave the table, William Streatfeild, the vicar of East Ham, returned thanks for the blessings received ; when quite unexpectedly to myself, there was such a solemn silence, as if all were arrested, that I was enabled vocally to ask a blessing upon them, and to pray that the Most High would keep them and bless them, cause His face to shine upon them, and be gracious unto them, lift up the light of His countenance upon them, and give them peace ; and through His unbounded love, and unlimited mercy in Christ Jesus, that He would grant them enough of the fatness of the earth, and so cause the dew of heaven to descend upon them, that they might be fruitful to his praise, and live to His glory, and be His in time, and His to all eternity. After a short pause, we withdrew, walked in the garden, or rested, until they left us. The tears often flowed from my eyes in parting from this beloved child.

The little band at Upton Lane was now greatly diminished. Mr. and Mrs. Fry, with the two daughters who remained at home, sought, after these events, the refreshment of a visit to their relatives in Norfolk. They first went to Lowestoft, and remained some days at the vicarage ; there Mrs. Fry saw the schools just established, united in the cottage-readings, and entered warmly into the various interests of the place. Her sister, Mrs. Cunningham, wrote at the time her own impressions of this visit :—

November 22nd.—We have had the treat and great advantage of a visit from our dearest sister. She was encouraged to come and assist us in the formation of our District Society, which, in this large place, we find to be essential for the right working of the parish. We are most thankful for the assistance of our dear sister (our brother and two of our nieces accompanied her); it is almost like having an angel visitor, so full of loveliness and grace is she. On Sunday, my dearest sister being at Pakefield with the Friends, induced my remaining all day there. She drank tea with me, at the Hawtreys. Mr. Hawtrey and she had some animated and delightful conversation, before we went down to the lecture in the school-room; my sister accompanied us there, and some of the other Friends joined us. After the usual singing and prayer, Mr. Hawtrey read very impressively the latter part of the third of Ephesians; we then had silence, after which she arose, and beautifully addressed the meeting, on the necessity of domestic and private religion, and enlarged a good deal on the duty, spirit, and manner, in which scripture should be read and studied; it would not do to hear it only in public service. After the powerful outward means which had been granted to the people of Pakefield, how were they called upon, to examine and digest for themselves, the written *word* of God. Then, in a full and beautiful prayer, she seemed to bring the blessing of heaven upon us. I hardly know any scriptural treat so great, as uniting with her in *prayer*! it is such a heavenly song—so spiritual—so elevating, enjoying glimpses, as it were, of the eternal world! Oh! may we long retain the power and

the blessing of it ! Her last short address was very impressive, that we should not come short of our rank in righteousness ; that we should follow our crucified Redeemer in humility, meekness, and self-denial ; that we should walk worthy of our very high calling, &c. Mr. Hawtrey ended with a very feeling prayer, and after taking an affectionate leave of the people, I drove our beloved sister home. On Monday, we were all in movement, in preparation for our District Society Meeting ; this was held at our house, and well attended. Our dear sister displayed much of her tact and power, and gave us the *greatest* assistance ; how marvellously gifted she is ! Through her influence, all parties were brought together, and the District Society begun under most favourable auspices ; the town was divided, and every arrangement made, according to her advice. Our meeting was highly satisfactory, and promised the most favourable results ; every one seemed willing to yield to her wisdom and eloquence. What a power of communicating good she possesses ! what a faithful steward in that which is committed to her ! A very interesting party dined with us, which increased much in the evening. After the reading, our dearest sister prayed most beautifully to our comfort and edification. On Tuesday, we went off to breakfast with the Hawtreys. As usual, we met with a warm reception, and had a cheerful, pleasant talking breakfast with them ; the family service afterwards was peculiarly edifying. Mr. Hawtrey read the fourteenth of John ; our dearest sister's address to the children, and to the parents, and then to Mr. Hawtrey, as minister, was most touching and edifying.

Surely these times do leave a peculiar savour, which is not to be forgotten ; adding to the precious seasons which are foretastes of heaven. Her mind appears to me in more lively exercise, and more gifted than ever ; rich both in grace and gifts. She is indeed beloved of the Lord, and dwells in safety by Him. After this she paid visits to the Friends, and we did not return till towards the latter end of the morning ; the evening was occupied by the Committee for the District Society. Wednesday was a full day, my sister and I walked about the most of the morning, visiting the schools, making calls, &c. &c. Nothing can be more benevolent and beautiful than her spirit, overflowing with love and tenderness. Our dinner-party was not very large, but cheerful and pleasant ; the first part of the evening was necessarily devoted to the agreeable, after which, my little societies of women, and several others, assembled in the parlour, my beloved sister went to them, and gave them a little sketch of her Newgate histories. We afterwards all removed into the drawing-room, and had a beautiful meeting, very suited to the subject we had been upon. My husband took the Prodigal Son as the subject for reading, which my sister applied to herself, and to all of us, as being led as penitents to return to our Father's house, and oh ! the display of mercy, and of goodness, and long suffering, in the exquisite character of the God of Israel. The prayer at the conclusion was as usual, as like an air from heaven. Our large party then broke up in much love. On Thursday, our beloved sister left us, after again enjoying prayer together, and commending each other affectionately to the care and keeping of the good Shepherd of Israel.

They then went to Earlham—that home of the past! afterwards to North Repps Hall. The all-absorbing subject of Slavery was occupying Mr. Buxton's mind. It was to Mrs. Fry most interesting, to listen to his details of the struggle of the preceding Sessions of Parliament, one replete with importance to this vast question, now approaching the crisis of its fate. All but alone, and nearly single-handed in the House, he had brought forward a measure for emancipation, in opposition to the wishes of Government, at a cost of effort and self-sacrifice little known to lookers on in general.

Her stay at North Repps Cottage delighted her; she visited the schools, met the hardy fishermen of that boisterous coast in the school-rooms at Overstrand and Trimmingham, and partook, as no common privilege, of social intercourse with the inmates of that lovely retreat. Their journey concluded with visits to Runc-ton, and to the Bank House at Lynn.

She returned home, comforted as to the circumstances of her own family; and strengthened in the belief that there might be “differences of administration,” but the “same Lord.”

CHAPTER XV.

SOJOURN IN JERSEY—VISITS TO GUERNSEY, SARK AND HERM—OBJECTS IN THESE ISLANDS—RECALL TO ENGLAND—DEATH OF A NEPHEW—NURSES ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS IN SEVERE ILLNESS—LETTERS TO THREE OF HER DAUGHTERS—MARRIAGE OF A SON—ATTENDS THE MEETINGS IN DORSET AND HANTS—CROSSES TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT—FRESHWATER—COAST-GUARD STATIONS THERE—VISIT TO A CONVICT SHIP—JOURNEY INTO SCOTLAND—DEATH OF THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER—COAST-GUARD LIBRARIES COMPLETED.

AT this period, in consequence of the marriages which had taken place, and other circumstances, the press of interests and engagements had become too heavy for the reduced party at home. A long absence from home appeared the best resource, and after some deliberation, the Island of Jersey was selected as the place of retreat. Its lovely scenery and fine air afforded strong inducements; augmented by the interest attached to the peculiar language, government, and internal regulations of the Channel Islands, that only remnant of Norman ducal power, still united with England. Some of the party preceded the rest, to prepare for their mother's reception with the second detachment. They had a long and stormy passage, and their first encounter with the rocky approach to the island, from a boisterous sea in the obscurity of twilight, gave an unfavourable impression of the navigation, which their letters conveyed

home. Mrs. Fry naturally dreaded the sea, so that after receiving their accounts, she felt peculiarly alive to the mercy and indulgence of a tranquil voyage. She arrived in the morning—the lovely bay of St. Aubin smooth, full and blue—the rocks mostly covered by the tide—the verdant island before her smiling in sunshine. A profusion of flowers and fruit ornamented the breakfast table that awaited her in “Caledonia Cottage,” which had been engaged and prepared for their residence. A few excellent letters of introduction amongst some of the island families, led to friendships which lasted till the close of her life. The circumstances by which she was surrounded, were very congenial to her. The beauty of the scenery, the luxuriance of the productions, the prosperity of the inhabitants, the refinement and intellectual cultivation of the upper classes, combined with simplicity of habit, and, in many instances, with true piety and active benevolence, rendered the period of her residence in Jersey one of peculiar refreshment and pleasure. With her husband and children, and a few of her intimate friends, she would often spend the day in the remote parts of the island, amongst the secluded and romantic bays of its northern coast. The little party would picnic in the open air, or, as was then a very common practice, in one of the empty rooms of the small barracks scattered round the coast, left under the care of some invalided soldier and his family. On these occasions, the tract bag was never forgotten—whilst the rest of the party were sketching or walking, she would visit the cottagers, and making herself as well understood as their antique Norman dialect permitted,

would give her little French books, and offer the kind word of sympathy or exhortation. Alive to the beautiful, especially to the picturesque, and with a quick eye for the droll, the peculiarities of the Jersey Cottage and its inmates were fully appreciated by her. The fire of Vráck (sea-weed) burning on the hearth, the huge kettle suspended over it, in which the "*soupe à la graisse*" was preparing for the family repast; the women knitting the wool of their own sheep, occasionally with the fleeces of one or two black ones intermingled to produce the desired grey tint; the dairy, and their far-famed cows tethered in picturesque little enclosures; orchards, rich in fruit; and gardens, painted and perfumed by the carnation, picotee, hydrangia, and other brilliant flowers, all combined to delight her. Amidst these scenes, the summer passed away, but higher and more important objects were not unheeded. There was in the Island a little band of persons, in very humble life, who professed the principles of Friends, one or two only, however, being members of the Society. They assembled for worship on the Sunday morning, in the cottage of Jean Renaud, an aged patriarch, about a mile from the town of St. Heliers, on the sea shore. There was a quaint old fashioned effect about the low large room in which they met, whilst from bundles of herbs suspended from the beams to dry, a flower or a leaf would drop from time to time on the assemblage below.

The appearance of the congregation was in keeping with the apartment, seated on planks, supported by temporary props. An antique four-post bedstead stood in one corner; when the mistress of the house died,

which occurred during their sojourn in Jersey, she was there laid out, a circumstance which did not prevent the Meeting assembling as usual, the drawn curtains screening the corpse from view. High-backed chairs were prepared for the seniors of the assembly, the younger members of Mrs. Fry's family appropriating to themselves the window-seat. The novelty of the occasion was increased by the English ministry having to be interpreted, to render it comprehensible to the hearers.

Nor were the afternoon Meetings much less peculiar. They also were held at a private house, situated in the suburbs of the town ; but the heat in doors being considerable, the congregation not unfrequently moved to the small walled garden, and sat beneath the shade of some evergreens. This, however, was found practically so inconvenient, that a room in the town was engaged for the purpose, and properly fitted up. There, until Elizabeth Fry left the island, large congregations assembled, including many of the gentry and principal inhabitants ; these meetings were exceedingly solemn and instructive. In this important service, she was greatly helped by the company of her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Fry, with her friend and companion, Rebecca Sturges.

Philanthropic objects also presented themselves to Mrs. Fry's notice, especially the state of the Hospital, including the Workhouse and Lunatic Asylum, and the Prisons. Acts of the British Parliament have no power in the Channel Islands ; as part of the ancient Duchy of Normandy, they are governed by their own laws and customs. To explain these would involve an historical and antiquarian discussion, out of place in a work like the pre-

sent. It is sufficient here to bring forward the result that none of the recent improvements in Prison Discipline had been effected in Jersey. After repeatedly visiting the Prison, and communicating with the authorities, she believed it the best course to have a letter which she addressed to them printed for circulation.

In this letter, addressed—"To the Authorities of the Island of Jersey, who have the Direction and Management of the Prison and Hospital," she remarks that :—"In order to obtain the salutary penal effect of imprisonment, together with the reformation of offenders, and to prevent the contamination of association and example, that, in addition to the restraint and confinement of a prison, the following objects are necessary, viz. :—

I. A full sufficiency of employment, proportioned to the age, sex, health, and ability of the offender.

II. As much wholesome privation of those comforts and enjoyments, which they might be able to obtain when at liberty, as is compatible with the preservation of their health and strength.

III. A proper system of classification.

IV. A fixed and suitable dietary for criminals, under the management of a Gaol Committee.

V. An absolute and total prohibition of spirits, wine, and all fermented liquors, with a penalty for its infringement, except when specially ordered by the medical attendant—also a prohibition of cards, and all other gaming.

VI. A suitable prison-dress, with sufficiently marked distinction, which has been found by experience to have a humbling and beneficial effect on the minds of the prisoners generally.

VII. A complete code of rules and regulations, for the direction and government of the gaoler and other officers of the prison, of the nature of those contained in an Act of Parliament, lately passed in England, for the Government of Gaols, 4th Geo. IV. cap. 64.

VIII. A law, or regulation, that should be imperative on visiting magistrates, or gaol committees, regularly and frequently to visit the prison, and minutely to investigate the details of its management.

IX. And lastly, but of primary importance, the due and stated performance of Divine service, and regular religious and other instruction of the prisoners ; every criminal who stands in need of it being taught to read and write.

By the system at present pursued, nearly all the above regulations and restraints are wholly omitted.

The criminals, instead of being kept to employment, are constantly idle.

Indulgences of nearly every description, and money, may be introduced to those who can procure them.

Prisoners of all descriptions are mixed up together, and with the exception of the cases of solitary confinement, exposed to communication with the public through the grating.

And in addition to these serious evils, your Gaoler is only remunerated according to the numbers his prison contains, and the quantity of spirits, wine, and other fermented liquors sold to the prisoners ; it thus becomes his personal interest to make the prison agreeable to its inmates, that their stay may be prolonged, and others induced to come in.

The funds devoted to the support of the Jersey Prison being wholly insufficient for that purpose, rendered it impossible to carry out any plan for classification and instruction. It was a case in which nothing could be done effectually, without a complete renovation of the existing system. It became, with Mrs. Fry, an object of continued interest and exertion, though years elapsed, and she again twice crossed to Jersey, before the desired ends were accomplished.

The Hospital, an institution of mixed character, intended not only for the sick and for accident cases, but as a place of confinement for persons guilty of small offences, and the wilfully idle or disorderly, was being at this time enlarged, that the diseased in body, and diseased in mind, might no longer be placed together.

Mrs. Fry took great pains in establishing a District Society at St. Heliers. A gentleman of high standing and importance in the island, thus bears testimony to the results of her exertions :—

“ I can only affirm, with perfect truth, that your dear mother’s visits to Jersey were blessed, as a means of incalculable good. It was through her peculiar talent and persevering exertions, that a District Society was formed in St. Heliers. Mr. John Hammond and Mr. Charles Le Quesne very ably seconded her views, in connexion with this matter.

After some weeks in Jersey, the party crossed to Guernsey ; they remained there about a fortnight, received with the hospitality of the “ olden time :” Mr. and Mrs. Fry at Miss Le Marchants, their daughters at Castle Carey, and Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, and her com-

panion, at the house of a Friend, named Edmund Richards.

The islands of Guernsey and Jersey have separate and independent legislative assemblies, and differ in some minor points of law. Mrs. Fry's time was divided between social enjoyments, objects of benevolence, and above all, devotedly caring and labouring for the good of others. She visited the Prison, and found, that since the death of Sir William Keppel, the last Governor, it had been supported by the Board of Treasury out of the revenue of that island, formerly appropriated to the Governor, a portion of which was always expended on the maintenance of the prisoners, and the same proportion was still expended for the same object by the Treasury. The building such, that debtors and criminals easily and freely conversed with each other, and the internal arrangement of the building bad in almost every respect. Tried and untried prisoners, as well as those convicted of almost every degree of offence, freely associating together, and even when sentenced to solitary confinement, too frequently placed in one small cell for want of room. The goaler, having little remuneration, except the profit to be obtained out of ninepence a day, allowed for the support of each prisoner, and upon the sale of wines and spirits to the prisoners; the latter checked in measure by an order limiting criminals to two wine glasses of spirits a day, besides other liquors. No employment, nor any chaplain or religious service; no instruction, except that occasionally given by any charitable person who might visit the prison. In short, she found the whole system entirely defective, tending

continually to promote and increase crime among its inmates, which in a small island like Guernsey was severely to be felt, counteracting the efforts of the upper classes for the general good of the community. The Hospital she considered in excellent order, though in a few minor points capable of some improvement.

One most important work she accomplished in that island—establishing the St. Peter's Port Provident and District Society. It is spoken of at the present time in Guernsey, as being "a real blessing to the poor of the community, not only in having administered to their temporal wants in sickness or accidents, but also in having greatly improved their domestic comforts and moral character, by inculcating frugal and temperate habits."

From Guernsey, Mrs. Fry crossed to Sark. This singular island lays between Guernsey and Jersey, and is seen on the horizon from both, though rarely communicated with from the latter island, being distant twenty miles, and extremely difficult of access. The best approach, is by crossing the channel, called the Great Russel, from Guernsey, nine miles in breadth. Sark is a rock, precipitous on all sides, about three miles long, by one-and-a-half wide. It is divided into great and little Sark by a very curious natural bridge of rock, about eighty yards in length, in breadth not exceeding four or five feet; it is very steep on one side, but on the other absolutely perpendicular. They went in an open sailing-boat, but as they approached its rocky shore, perceived no inlet, nor any indication of ascent to the lofty table land. A small jetty, from a natural projection, formed

a little basin, where they landed, amidst impending rocks. It was not till they were on the narrow shelf of pebbly beach, that they perceived what appeared to be the mouth of a cavern ; there a cart was waiting, and in it were placed two high-backed chairs ; this was the carriage to convey the ladies. The cavern gradually narrowed, and at length the party emerged through a ravine on the plain. A lodging had been engaged for them at a farm-house.

The island consists of a level plain, intersected with valleys, well cultivated ; there are woods, cottages, small gardens and orchards, fields dotted with cattle, and a village collected around the Manor House.

Sark is a dependency of Guernsey, but the legislative power is vested in the Hereditary Lord of Sark, and his forty tenants, a curious remnant of feudal tenure. They stayed three or four days there ; they also visited Herm, an islet between Guernsey and Sark, nearly four miles in circumference, but the population very small.

But the sunshine of their sojourn was to pass away, before their departure from the Channel Islands. On the 26th of October Mrs. Fry writes :—

26th.—On Seventh-day evening, in the midst of a very large party, our letters arrived ; some from our dearest Hannah of a very touching nature ; she had suffered so extremely on her voyage (to Madeira) as to bring on her confinement on board ship. Her child died, and her sufferings appear to have been extreme. The whole account was exceedingly affecting to me. But I desire to look above the agency of man, to Him, without whom not a sparrow falls to the ground, who orders

all things in love, as well as in wisdom. My trust must be complete, my reliance entire, my hope continual. Lord, as all my springs are in Thee, I pray Thee daily, hourly, minutely, increase and renew my faith, patience, reliance, and hope, that I never cast away my confidence, but that my soul may follow hard after Thee, even unto the end."

The accounts from England also were very anxious. Several of her children required her attention; one of her daughters was dangerously ill, and her beloved sister, Mrs. Hoare, had just closed the eyes of her eldest son. To divide the party, renounce the route through France, which they had intended to take, and return by the long sea-passage, with only her maid and little boy, was not decided upon without great conflict.

The season had become unsettled and stormy, and the post quite irregular from the packets being detained by weather; several vessels were lost in the Channel. An entry in her journal, without date, describes how much she suffered at this juncture.

Before I left Jersey very serious accounts came of our dearest Rachel; of such a nature were they, last First day, just before an important Public Meeting, that it became necessary for me to decide to return home direct, and not by France, with my husband and daughters. I felt greatly afflicted, and earnestly prayed that I might be permitted to see my tenderly beloved child again. I was brought into a state of deep conflict, walking about the room, weeping bitterly, and hardly knowing how to go to the Meeting appointed at the Hospital, for the poor there, and the public generally: however, I went,

and power was present to calm my troubled spirit, and enable me to preach the Gospel to the poor, the sinners, and the afflicted. It was a very solemn parting with the people of the island ; but, through mercy, I felt so clearly in my right place, and such a blessed calm came over me, in spite of myself, that undue anxiety was taken away. I passed a calm night, and was enabled to commit my dear child, and my all, to Him who can do all things for us. The next day I had many little matters to finish off, and to take leave. On Third day morning, after a short solemn time in prayer, my husband set off for France with my daughters, and I, with my maid and my little boy, for England.

The voyage proved foggy and tempestuous, her maid and child immediately became ill, as did "even" her "little dog." Accounts rather more favourable of her invalid daughter, enabled her to spend a day at Hampstead with her sister, Mrs. Hoare, and her widowed daughter-in-law, entering into the anguish of their great bereavement, and the rich consolations of their hope. Then she pursued her way to her suffering child, where her presence was greatly needed. Six weeks she remained devoted to her daughter, and to that devotion, directed by singular skill and judgment was, apparently, to be attributed her child's gradual restoration to health.

From Lynn she wrote to her youngest daughter, then just entering life, to greet her on her return home :—

Bank House, Lynn, Eleventh Month, 9th.

" MY DEAREST LOUISA,

" I feel inclined to write thee a few lines of salutation

on thy return home. Thy sister and thyself have very important places to fill, although they may differ; and as I have told her my mind, I mean to do the same to thee—remember these words, ‘be sober, be vigilant.’ At thy important age much depends on not letting the mind *out*, if I may so express myself: it is a period of life when this is natural—various prospects in life may float before the view; but how infinitely important to know the heart to be staid upon God, and to find it, meat and drink to be doing His will—how important to attend to *present* duties; this is the best preparation for the future, whatever that future may be. I see that much devolves on thee; thou hast not only to look to thy own soul, but younger ones are looking up to thee, whom, I believe, thou mayst be the means of winning to Christ. Thy friendship with the —— family I trust will be of use to thee; but on no account let imagination wander upon it; this will do thee harm, and on the contrary, I wish thee to profit by it.

“Farewell, dearest Louisa,

“In much tender love, “E. F.”

To the daughter she had been so long nursing, she wrote continually, for some time after her return home, offering the wisest counsel, as to the conduct both of body and mind. Amongst other things, she says, in one of her letters:—

The better accounts of thee are certainly very encouraging, and set me more at rest about thee; still, my beloved child, I feel thou needest my sympathy and prayers; there is much to feel, even if it pleases Providence quite

to raise thee up again ; there is much to go through. I have often found, in recovering from long and severe illness, and entering life again, that our enemies spiritually are yet lively and strong, and even, we may say, after the "Beast has had a deadly wound, it still lives ;" I know this has been my experience. Though thou thinkest I feel with the Psalmist about long life, yet I am deeply sensible of the conflicts and temptations it involves ; still, if we are through grace enabled to live to a great and good purpose, and to promote the welfare of our fellow-mortals, it is well to have such an opportunity granted to us, of proving our faith and our love towards our Lord and Saviour. Mayst thou, my much-loved child, be raised up for this blessed purpose !

Her advice, under differing circumstances, was very discriminating. To another daughter she wrote :—

"I feel in the first place, earnestly desirous that thou shouldest think as little as possible of thy nervous feelings. I know how extremely painful they are, but experience has taught me, the less I think of them the better. It is most important to look upon them as much as possible like the toothache—that it must be endured while it lasts, but it is not dangerous in its nature. As for the discoloured view the imagination may at the time give to things, nothing is more important than to set it down as a clear and fixed thing in the mind, that whilst this nervousness lasts it is not sound, and *must not* be believed or taken heed to. I would not have thee discouraged at this return of it. I believe I never had death brought home very closely, without being

brought into a low nervous state ; it is after all, so awful ; though I increasingly see, that this is real weakness, and that those who are believers in the Lord Jesus, however unworthy, need not fear it, as through Him, its *plague* and sting will be done away. But it is folly in one sense to look ahead, we have enough to do to seek for help and grace for the present time to do our *present day's work*. When the day comes that we have to give up 'this mortal life,' we may and ought humbly to trust, that through the unmerited mercy and love of our Lord, His grace will be found sufficient for us. I observe, for my great encouragement, that what we call nervousness often proves no common blessing, if made a right use of, and not given way to. It so wonderfully humbles, prevents the creature glorying, and makes willing to do any thing to come to that peace, which quiets every storm. Thy uncles and aunts have nearly all been striking instances of this ; and I believe, hard, very hard as it is to bear, it is a baptism to fit for a fulness of joy and glory rarely partaken of ; but it in no common degree calls for patience. I always think both David and Paul largely partook of this sort of humbling experience. Therefore, my dear ——, if tried this way, possess thy soul in patience, and look upon it as a suitable, though bitter medicine, prescribed by the Physician of value to promote thy health and cure. L—— is to add ; therefore, I must in the most near love say farewell.

“ I am thy most tenderly attached mother,

“ ELIZABETH FRY.”

Another family marriage was now approaching. Jo-

seph,* the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Fry, was married, January 1st, 1834. The prayer of his mother's heart is—"Oh, may the Lord be with him in it!" Her son brought his bride, for a time, to dwell beneath his parents' roof, to the comfort and pleasure of all parties. Without one exception, Mrs. Fry received from her sons-in-law friendship and affection, and from her sons' wives most dutiful love.

As the spring approached, Elizabeth Fry believed it right to leave home for religious services in the counties of Dorset and Hants. She was accompanied by her friend, William Forster, and her nieces, Priscilla Buxton and Priscilla Gurney.† The impression left on her mind by her aunt's address and manners during the journey, are well described by the former:—

"There was no weakness, or trouble of mind or body, which might not safely be unveiled to her. Whatever various or opposite views, feelings or wishes, might be confided to her, all came out again, tinged with her own loving hoping spirit. Bitterness of every kind died; when entrusted to her, it never reappeared. The most favourable construction possible was always put upon every transaction. No doubt her failing lay this way; but did it not give her and her example a wonderful influence? Was it not the very secret of her power with the wretched and degraded prisoners? She always could see hope for every one; she invariably found, or made some point of light. The most abandoned must

* Joseph Fry married Alice, eldest daughter of the late Rev. John Partridge, of Cranwich Rectory, Norfolk.

† Mrs. William Leatham.

have felt, she did not despair for them, either for this world or another; and this it was that made her irresistible.

“ At Southampton, time and opportunity were rather unexpectedly afforded for an excursion to the Isle of Wight. I think she undertook it chiefly for the sake of pleasing Priscilla Gurney and myself; but it had important consequences. We travelled round by Shanklin, Bonchurch, and the Undercliff. She was zealous as we, in the enjoyment of the scenery and the wild flowers; but the next day, on reaching Freshwater, she was fatigued, and remained to rest, whilst we went to see Alum Bay. On our return, we were told she had walked out, and we soon received a message, desiring us to join her at the Coast Guard Station. We found her in her element; pleased and giving pleasure to a large group, who were assembled around her. She entered with the greatest sympathy into their somewhat dreary position, inquired into their resources for education for their children, and religious improvement for themselves—found them much in want of books; and from this visit originated that great undertaking, of providing libraries for all the Coast Guard Stations in Great Britain—an undertaking full of difficulties, but in which her perseverance never relaxed till it was accomplished.”

From the long low inn upon the beach at Freshwater, when you look from the beautiful sea, the range of cliffs beyond, and the two lonely rocks in the foreground, you see nothing but a few fishers' cottages, and the dark gloomy-looking Preventive-service buildings beyond them, just where the hills which enclose the little bay begin their ascent. It was very early in the year, be-

fore the great metropolitan hive had thrown off its endless swarms of summer travellers. Something of gloominess and desolation rested on the place—her companions had left her, and she sat and pondered the condition of the inmates of the dwellings before her. It was at Brighton, in 1824, that the idea first suggested itself to her mind, of the great need there was for supplying this class of men with employment, that would at once occupy the long intervals of time left to their own disposal, and furnish them with subjects for thought, during the weary hours of lonely watching that they must of necessity pass. She knew idleness to be a fruitful source of ill, and that the human mind, preying upon itself, becomes inert, if not vicious. Circumstances had precluded her making any general or systematic exertions to remedy this evil, yet it rested upon her thoughts. She waited long to see her way clearly, and to be convinced that the duty was laid upon her; but no sooner had the conviction arrived, than she set herself vigorously to the work.

The experience of life had taught her, that He, who rules as a God of Providence, directs as a God of Grace—that with duty comes opportunity, and that with outward circumstances, the inward call is sure to harmonise, where man desires to act only in conformity to his Master's will, and to occupy with the talents given him to use.

The latter part of the summer of 1834 was passed by Mr. and Mrs. Fry, and their two unmarried daughters, in Scotland; but her character shows itself the same under all circumstances, and never was Mrs. Fry's individuali-

ty, or oneness of purpose, more evidenced than on this journey.

After Loch Tay, and the "Braes of Aberfeldy," the travellers reached Kenmore, a village at the head of Loch Tay, on the Sabbath. They enjoyed a quiet Sunday, and tolerable Highland accommodation. In the evening, anxious to turn the day to some good account, Mrs. Fry invited the servants of the inn, to attend the reading with her own family. Some ladies were polite enough to offer the use of their sitting-room, as it was more roomy; a large congregation of barefooted chambermaids, and blue-bonneted hostlers, assembled. She read part of her brother Joseph John Gurney's letter to a Friend, on the Evidences of Christianity. The people were very attentive, and anxious each to possess a copy, that they might read the remainder of the book themselves; and the same request was urgently preferred by some game keepers, who arrived at the inn the following morning.

At Killin, the inn was so full that the party took up their abode in a cottage, in some humble bed chambers, without a sitting-room, whilst the "gude wife" and her family were carding and spinning wool in the kitchen. They remained there a second day, tempted by the beautiful scenery, especially where the river Dockhart roars and tumbles on its course, till, rushing round two rocky islets, it pours into the Loch.

From Killin, they proceeded to Mrs. Stewart's famous inn, near Loch Katrine. Accommodation having been secured beforehand, they found comfortable apartments ready; but they had not them long to themselves, for as

travellers arrived, weary and hungry, for whom there was no room in the inn, Mrs. Fry could not resist sheltering them. Just at the close of the day, a party of ladies drove up, extremely fatigued, and dreading the danger of the roads in the darkness of night ; the entreaties for admission were heard from without ; they were invited to share their sitting-room, and with their maid passed the night on its floor.

From Loch Katrine they went to Balloch, and Luss, and thence to Inverary and Loch Awe, from which place Mrs. Fry (a son with her) went to Edinburgh. There she attended some of the Meetings of Friends, and visited the prisons.

Whilst on the banks of Loch Awe, the party spent a few days at Inistrinich, under the hospitable roof of K. M. MacAllister, Esq., enjoying the beauties of that fine district and on their return passed a Sunday there. In the evening, Mrs. Fry had a solemn reading with a large party of guests and the assembled household. It was her invariable practice on this journey, even at the inns, to invite the servants to attend their Sabbath evening readings, and many of the visitors frequently joined them.

The party having re-assembled at Oban, with the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnston,* remained quietly a few days, and then retraced their steps through Dumbarton and Glasgow to Edinburgh, where Mrs. Fry was again received with the most affectionate kindness by her friends, her time and energies being devoted

* Priscilla, daughter of the late Sir J. F. Buxton, Bart.

to the completion of those objects begun on her former visit.

But whilst numerous institutions of value directly or indirectly owe their existence to her exertions—and she sowed the seed of many a noble tree—she did not omit the smallest opportunity of benefiting others. Her's was a constant endeavour to leave some savour of good on all with whom she had any communication. The chambermaid and the waiter received the word of kindness and counsel, and a little tract or text book to impress it upon their memories. The postillion at the carriage window, or the cotter at the road side, met with appropriate notice, and this mingled with the most unaffected enjoyment of the country, and spirit in all the incidents of travelling.

The result of her observations on the state of the Scotch Prisons, she forwarded to the proper authorities after her return home.

The close of the year 1834 was marked by the death of the Duke of Gloucester. He had been highly esteemed by Elizabeth Fry, from the time when quartered at Norwich, in the latter part of the last century. His Royal Highness was amongst the few, who addressed words of friendly caution and sound advice to the young and motherless sisters at Earlham. She was requested soon afterwards to wait upon the widowed Duchess. Her journal furnishes an account of an interview so gratifying yet affecting to her.

Upton Lane, First Month, 27th, 1835.—I yesterday went, by appointment, to visit the Duchess of Gloucester, after the death of the Duke. She gave a highly-

interesting account of his death. He appeared to depart in the full hope of a Christian. This I felt satisfactory and comforting, after having traced him from his youth up, and seen his conduct, and known his principles, when a young man. I observe how gently the Lord deals with His people, and how, under the most varied circumstances, He visits all, and how He bears with those that fear Him. It appeared to me, that the Duke desired to act up to the light received, and his faith was strong in his Saviour, which proved his stronghold in the day of trouble.

The beneficial effects of the libraries introduced through Mrs. Fry's influence into the Naval Hospitals at Haslar and Plymouth, and the testimony borne to their utility by Sir William Burnett, the highest medical authority in the navy, had confirmed her desire to extend this advantage to all the Coast Guard Stations, without further delay. It was brought under the notice of Sir Robert Peel, then first Lord of the Treasury, by means of a letter addressed by Mrs. Fry to his brother, Lawrence Peel, Esquire, who had already ably seconded her views in the Brighton District Society. This application met with the approbation of Sir Robert Peel, by whom it was referred to Sir Thomas Freemantle: from him an assurance was received, that there existed a strong disposition on the part of the Board of Treasury to give effect to this object, and that as soon as the proposed plan was matured it should receive all the assistance in his power.

Admiral Bowles, at that time Comptroller of the Coast Guard, gave the project his cordial support.

Admiral Sir Edward Parry united with Mrs. Fry in this movement, and under such powerful patronage it rapidly advanced. A formal application was made to the Treasury for a sum of money for this purpose, and the result was, the grant of £500. Large private subscriptions had still to be sought, and were obtained, chiefly through Mrs. Fry's influence. The details of the arrangement were almost entirely her own, and curiously adapted to meet the tastes and necessities of those she desired to benefit, having made herself mistress of the subject, and of the nature of the service, with surprising rapidity and exactitude.

Besides subscriptions in money, many liberal donations of books were received from some of the most eminent booksellers, which, with the grants from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Religious Tract Society, and other similar institutions, amounted in value to upwards of a thousand pounds.

The selection of the libraries was a work of considerable difficulty, demanding much caution, and examiners were appointed to decide on suitable books for this important purpose. The gentlemen selected were the Rev. John W. Cunningham, Sir W. E. Parry, and Admiral Bowles.

The libraries, for the Stations alone, amounted in all to 25,896 volumes. Fifty-two different works were prepared for each Station, whilst a still larger and more important collection was to be attached to every one of the seventy-four districts, in order to afford the needful variety and change. The packages of books, the greater part carriage-free, were dispatched in the course of the

summer from the Custom-House, in Government vessels, to their different destinations. But all this was not done without much fatigue and exertion, many wearisome journeys to London, and a great deal of writing, though, in the latter, she was much helped by Mr. Timpson, a dissenting minister engaged as Secretary, and who proved an efficient and useful agent.

More than a year was, however, to elapse before the final arrangement of the Coast Guard Libraries.

It was June, 1836, when Mrs. Fry had the gratification of receiving the printed Report of the Committee, acting under the sanction of His Majesty's Government, for furnishing the Coast Guard of the United Kingdom with libraries of religious and instructive books, announcing the completion of the project, with a short account of what had been effected.

“The Committee, acting under the sanction of His Majesty's Government, for furnishing the Coast Guard of the United Kingdom with libraries of religious and instructive books, and also with school books for the families of the men employed on that service, having, by the blessing of Divine Providence, completed that object, it becomes their pleasing duty to lay before the Subscribers a Report of their Proceedings.

“In the commencement of this duty, it is proper gratefully to acknowledge, that the idea of furnishing these libraries first suggested itself to the benevolent mind of Mrs. Fry, whose active and charitable exertions, on all occasions affecting the benefit of mankind, are too well known, and too highly estimated to need further

remark on the present occasion, and who having previously succeeded in inducing His Majesty's Government to establish libraries for the use of the patients in the naval hospitals, was induced, by the observations she had made on the subject, to endeavour to extend the same beneficial measure to the Coast Guard service; and after several unsuccessful efforts, arising from the expence which it would occasion, a sum of £500 was obtained in 1835, from the first Lord of the Treasury (Sir Robert Peel) for this purpose, which munificent donation has since been followed by subscriptions from many charitable individuals, and grants from several public book societies; but as the whole of these funds were not sufficient to meet the object in view, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Spring Rice) kindly granted two further sums, amounting together to £460, to effect its completion.

“ The means thus so liberally afforded, have enabled the Committee to provide and forward to the coast—

498	Libraries for the Stations on shore, containing	25,896 vols.
74	Ditto Districts	12,880
48	Ditto Cruizers	1,867
	School Books for the Children of the Crews of Stations	6,464
	Pamphlets, Tracts, &c.	5,357 in Nos.
Making a total of		52,464 vols.

and thereby to furnish a body of deserving and useful men, and their wives and families, (amounting to upwards of 21,000 persons), with the means of moral and religious instruction, as well as profitable amusement,

most of whom, from their situation in life, have not the means of procuring such benefits from their own resources, and who, in many instances, are so far removed from places of public worship and schools, as to prevent the possibility of themselves or their families deriving advantage from either."

Then the work was accomplished, and dismissed from her mind as a point gained, and a blessing granted.

CHAPTER XVI.

EXAMINATION BEFORE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—GOES TO LYNN—MARRIAGE OF HER YOUNGEST DAUGHTER—JOURNEY ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST OF ENGLAND—CROSSES TO JERSEY AND GUERNSEY—LIBRARIES FOR PACKETS AT FALMOUTH—LIBRARIES FOR SHEPHERDS OF SALISBURY PLAIN—ACCOUNTS OF JERSEY PRISON—GOES TO EARLHAM—RELIGIOUS VISIT TO SUSSEX, KENT, &c.—SHEERNESS—VISIT TO DUBLIN—FEMALE PRISON, &c.—NATIONAL SCHOOLS—JERSEY PRISON—ILLNESS OF A SISTER—HESITATION—UNPLEASANT VOYAGE TO GUERNSEY—RETURN HOME.

ON the 22nd of May 1835, Mrs. Fry was ordered to attend a Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to inquire into the present state of the several Gaols and Houses of Correction in England and Wales. She was accompanied by Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. Pirie (Lady Pirie), and Miss Fraser, who were likewise to be examined. Sir T. Fowell Buxton was with Mrs. Fry. The ladies were conducted by him to an anti-room, where they found the Duke of Richmond and Lord Suffield. The Duke of Sutherland came in shortly afterwards. The Duke of Richmond, as Chairman of the Committee, presided; Mr. Gurney, the short-hand writer, was seated at the corner of the table; and Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. Pirie, and Miss Fraser, at the right hand of the Duke. There might be from twelve to fifteen noblemen present.

An eye-witness writes :—

“ Never, I should think, was the calm dignity of her character more conspicuous. Whatever her inward feelings might have been, nothing like excitement was visible in her manner—nothing hurried in her language. Perfectly self-possessed, her speech flowed melodiously, her ideas were clearly expressed, and if another thought possessed her, besides that of delivering her opinions faithfully and judiciously on the subjects brought before her, it was, that she might speak a word for her Lord and Master in that noble company.”

Perhaps the heads of a little strip of paper, prepared by her to assist her memory, will prove the best guide to those subjects she the most earnestly desired to press upon her auditors.

“ Notes for Examination before a Committee of the House of Lords.”

“ General state of female prisons.—Want of more instruction.—Ladies visiting in female prisons.—Objections to instruction being given privately and *alone* to women, even by chaplains, or ministers of their own persuasion.”

“ The Tread-Mill—injurious for women, under many circumstances of health and constitution—often destructive to the health of men, when too prolonged, upon a meager diet—unfitting for labour afterwards. Matrons, to be efficient, must be of character and weight. Gaoler’s daughter of sixteen, as in one instance in Wales, acting in that capacity.

“ The state of most Borough prisons—instance,

woman alone, for a considerable time in one prison, never seeing any of her sex, in the power and under the care of men."

"Equality in labour and in diet, in different prisons, though the kind of diet must depend upon the local habits. Great need of Government Inspectors in English and Scotch prisons, the plan answering so well in Ireland. Chaplains, for general daily instruction, and the services of the Sabbath."

"Convict ships—difficulties about choosing matrons—women more competent to judge of the qualifications of their own sex than men."

But far beyond all other topics, did she urge the vast importance of scriptural instruction for these poor fallen ones. Warmed by her subject, with her voice a little raised, and a look of solemn earnestness, she went on to say, after replying to one of the questions addressed to her—

"I believe the effect of religious and other instruction is hardly to be calculated on; and I may further say, that notwithstanding the high estimation and reverence in which I held the Holy Scriptures before I went to the prisons, as believing them to be written by inspiration of God, and therefore calculated to produce the greatest good; I have seen (in reading the Scriptures to those women) such a power attending them, and such an effect on the minds of the most reprobate, as I could not have conceived. If any one wants a confirmation of the truth of Christianity, let him go and read the Scriptures in prisons to poor sinners; you there see how the gospel is exactly adapted to the fallen condition

of man. It has strongly confirmed my faith, and I feel it to be the bounden duty of the Government and the country, that those truths should be administered in the manner most likely to conduce to the real reformation of the prisoner ; you then go to the root of the matter ; for though severe punishment may in a measure deter them and others from crime, it does not amend the character and change the heart ; but if you have really altered the principles of the individuals, they are not only deterred from crime, because of the fear of punishment, but they go out and set a bright example to others."

The quiet self-possession with which she delivered her opinions, won confidence and consideration, even where they failed to convince ; and she had the satisfaction to believe, that some points of importance were forwarded by the information she furnished.

The varying forms of the kaleidoscope, change not more rapidly than the scenes in the life of Elizabeth Fry.

On the 22nd of May, she went before the Committee of the House of Lords ; on the 28th, she went into Norfolk, to be with her daughter ; and on the 29th, she announces the birth of a little grandson. She returned home on the 2nd of June ; and on the 10th, in the retirement of her morning room, within sound of the burst of bells that announced the event, we find her before the Lord in prayer, during the celebration of the marriage of her youngest daughter.*

Upton, Sixth Month, 10th.—Alone in my little room,

* Louisa, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fry, married Raymond, second son of Sir John Henry Pelly, Bart.

my whole family gone to Church to the wedding. I feel solitary, but I believe my Lord is with me. Oh, gracious Lord ! at this moment be with my child ; pour out Thy Spirit upon her, that she may not only make solemn covenant with her husband, but with her God. Help her to keep these covenants : be with, help, and bless her and her's. Grant enough of this world's goods ; but above all, far above all, grant them durable riches and righteousness—that joy and peace, which the world can neither give or take away. Not that I am worthy to ask for these blessings, but I ask them for the sake of Him, who is our righteousness ; and through whom, Thou showest Thy tender mercy towards us. Amen, and Amen.

13th.—I can hardly express what the desire and prayer of my heart was on the wedding-day, that it might be rightly spent, and that a blessing might be with us, and all our mercies remembered and acknowledged. I think this was a good deal the case ; they returned from Church soon after I wrote in my little room : the party appeared cheerful, peaceful, and sober-minded ; the dear grand-children, many of them with us, looking truly lovely, they had their wedding-meal, a sweet group round a table with some other children. We sat down about fifty ; at our table, we had fifteen of our children, my sister Catherine, and my sister Buxton, the Pelly family, and a few of our dear and valued friends. I have seldom seen a more lovely party, or apparently in a sweeter spirit ; really quite a delightful and beautiful sight. I felt that I could not let the party separate, without some expression of my deep feeling, my pleasure,

and satisfaction in our table being so surrounded ; my gratification at the interest shown for the bride and bridegroom, and ourselves ; and my desire, that this fresh union with our friends and neighbours might be blessed indeed to us all ; then my prayer for our dear young people, that they might walk with a perfect and upright heart before the Lord ; that they might be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and that the God of love might be with them, even unto the end. I also expressed, that I had remembered in my prayers, those members of the family that were afar off—that grace, mercy and peace might be with them ! We then broke up, and wandered a little about until our dear bride and bridegroom left us. After which, our party dispersed, but an uncommon feeling of love, sweetness, peace and blessing, appeared to me to rest upon us ; for which, as a token for good, I desire, very humbly and reverently to return thanks.

Some important affairs requiring her husband's personal attention in the south of England, it was decided for Mrs. Fry and their remaining daughter to accompany him ; it appeared a desirable opportunity for seeing the Commanders of the different Coast Guard districts, through which they would pass, and endeavouring to stimulate them, with the officers and men under their command, to a proper application of the books they were about to receive. This proved, however, almost needless, for in nearly every instance, these gentlemen warmly seconded her views, and approved of the plan. Her suggestions were received by them with the utmost attention and politeness, and greatly did the intercourse

with the Coast Guard officers add to the interest of this agreeable journey, along the whole southern coast of England, from the Forelands to the Land's End.

She almost always visited the Stations, and conversed with those she found there ; frequently, the officers would follow her to the inn for further communication. At Portsmouth, she visited Haslar Hospital, speaking kind and pitying words to the sick and deranged. Admiral Garrett and his family paid her the most hospitable attention ; with Miss Garrett she visited the Penitentiary at Portsea. While they went over the house, the unfortunate inmates were assembled in the parlour, where they were all standing, when Mrs. Fry, and the party with her, returned to the room. This lady describes Mrs. Fry as "sitting down, laying her bonnet on the table, and making some inquiries as to the arrangements of the place, and the conduct of the young women there. Two were pointed out to her as being peculiarly refractory and hardened ; without noticing this, she addressed some words of exhortation and advice to all ; and when she arose to go away, she went up to these two, and extending her hand to each of them, said, in a tone and manner quite indescribable, but so touching :—'I trust I shall hear better things of thee.' The hearts that had been proof against the words of reproach and exhortation, softened at the words of hope and kindness, and both burst into tears."

The travellers made a three days' tour of the Isle of Wight. At Cowes Mrs. Fry separated from her husband and daughter, believing it her duty to cross to Jersey, in the hope of effecting something towards

remedying the crying evils which still existed in the prison there. She was accompanied by a young Friend from London. They had a rough passage, but a warm reception at D'Hautrée, the residence of Colonel (now General) Touzel. By him and his family were they treated, not merely with hospitality, but with true Christian fellowship, as beloved for their works' sake.

She had many interviews with persons in authority, but to little immediate purpose. Her desire was, that such buildings should be added to the prison, as should render it a House of Correction, and make it possible to enforce classification and needful discipline; but great difficulty existed from many perplexing questions between the States of the Island and its Governor, Field-Marshal Viscount Beresford, as to who was to pay the expences that would be entailed. She found the District Society flourishing, and a committee of ladies visiting the Hospital.

On her return, she spent a few days at Guernsey, where the prison was in the same deplorable state in which she had seen it two years before. Thence she crossed to Weymouth, where she rejoined her party, who were rejoiced to welcome her again in safety. She was laden with fruits and flowers, the rich produce of those fertile islands. She landed, bearing in her hand a huge bunch of carnations and picotees of every shade of colour.

They were some days at Plymouth. Occasional intervals of rest, with the addition of sunshine and fine scenery, were thankfully received by her. She prized the varied beauties in the material world, not alone as in

themselves good and pleasant, but as types and emblems of the beautiful and good in the spiritual creation, and above all, in the spirit of Heber, she could appropriate his language—

“ If thus Thy meaner works are fair !
If thus Thy bounties gild the span
Of ruined earth, and sinful man,
How glorious must the mansion be,
Where Thy redeemed shall dwell with Thee !”

There was one day she often referred to with pleasure, when, with the Coast Guard Captain of the District, in his cutter, they visited some of the stations, crossing Cawsand Bay, and landing at a romantic spot, where one of them is placed. At the Breakwater, on their return, they were met by several naval officers, their cutters, or yachts, meanwhile, sailing about that beautiful harbour.

The contrasts in her life were great. This was rather a fresh variety ; walking with her daughter up and down the Breakwater, surrounded by naval officers of various ranks and different ages, but the one great aim of her life not forgotten. The conversation between the Quakeress and those sons of storm and strife, was of benefiting seamen, raising their moral condition, and the best methods of inculcating habits of piety and virtue.

At Falmouth they were warmly welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. George Croker Fox, and by every member of that family. Mrs. George Croker Fox, and Mrs. Robert Were Fox, were among her oldest friends ; their mother, Mrs. Barclay, was sister to her father. In childhood and youth, the intercourse was frequent and delightful, be-

tween the two groups of sisters, seven in each family, alike left motherless in early life.

Here she heard much of the packets continually sailing from that port ; she wished to have libraries for them also. In this she was seconded by Captain Clavell, R.N., of the "Astrea," flag-ship, and by many of the commanders of the packets and their families. Grants from the Societies, and private subscriptions were raised ; the Religious Tract Society gave their publications at half-price, and the Christian Knowledge Society presented books to the amount of ten pounds. These vessels were supplied with Bibles, Testaments, and Prayer-books, by Government. The library books were placed, as a *depôt*, at the office of Captain Clavell ; each packet, when she sailed, took out a box containing thirty books, changed, from time to time, so as to produce constant variety. The gratitude of the men was great, and the co-operation of their officers hearty : of fifty-one pounds, that this arrangement cost, twenty pounds were subscribed by them.

Accompanied by some of their relatives, the travellers proceeded, passing through the stern features of the Cornish coast, to Penzance and the Land's-End. The state of the lunatics at Penzance was very grievous. Elizabeth Fry could not permit such evils to remain, without some endeavour to remedy them. She soon afterwards heard from a friend, that "the comforts of the poor lunatics at Penzance are likely to be increased. A wall is now building round a part of the garden, which is made expressly for them to walk in, and I hope the internal arrangements are also improved."

A few days were passed among the romantic beauties of North Devon. Thence they turned their steps homewards ; but at Amesbury she paused long enough to make arrangements for a library being established for the use of the shepherds of Salisbury Plain. An excellent individual, approved by the clergyman and Sir Edward and Lady Antrobus, undertook the care of the books and their circulation. After a few months trial of the plan, he writes to Mrs. Fry, that—

“Forty-five books are in constant circulation with the addition of magazines. More than fifty poor people read them with attention, return them with thanks, and desire the loan of more, frequently observing, they think it a very kind thing indeed that they should be furnished with so many good books, free of all cost, so entertaining and instructive, these long winter evenings.”

From the different officers of the Coast Guard Stations, she received letters that gladdened her heart, but far too numerous for insertion here, and to select would be most difficult, as all breathe the same spirit, and express their cordial approbation of the plan, and the pleasure felt by the men and their families. But something beyond pleasure was desired by her, with whom the idea originated ; that advantage and edification should accrue, to those who read. The seed she sowed has in truth wonderfully flourished ; and now it is, that the fruits may be discerned. If those, who visit our coasts for pleasure or duty, would make their way into the low-browed preventive houses, so continually recurring, in some apartment, frequently the room where the arms are kept, they may see three or four shelves

against the wall, filled with well-kept, but evidently well-read books. Let them enter into a little conversation with the intelligent looking man, decently dressed, who sits reading after a long watch, and they will find, whether or not these books are appreciated ; or let them address a few words to the wife, and hear her estimate of their value. Exceptions of course there are, and degrees in the estimate put upon the opportunity for improvement ; but the former are few, and the amount of interest and pleasure afforded by the books far beyond any thing that was anticipated, even by the most sanguine supporters of the plan.

In February, in pursuance of her conviction of duty, Elizabeth Fry undertook a short journey into Kent and Sussex. Prisons, District Societies, and the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, shared her attention. At Sheerness there was a remarkable occasion on board one of the ships in ordinary ; at her request Captain Kennedy had the women and children from the other ships collected. "It was a fine sight," remarks Mrs. Fry, "in a large man-of-war, instead of bloodshed and fightings, to see naval officers, two chaplains, sailors, soldiers, ladies, numbers of women and children, all met to hear what two Quakers had to say, more particularly a woman, and to listen to any advice given by them."

They examined the children as to their progress in education, counselled them as suited to their tender years ; afterwards addressed their parents ; and lastly the varied party assembled around them on those topics which are the same for all. The cordiality and kindness of Captain and Mrs. Kennedy were very great.

Circumstances now arose which determined Elizabeth Fry, for a third time, to cross the sea to Ireland. Her motives were twofold—to attend the Meetings of Friends in Lancashire, to be present at the Dublin Yearly Meeting; and to visit the prisons at Dublin, and make a renewed effort for their amendment. She cared especially for the large female prison, in Grange Gorman Lane, then in contemplation; she had long earnestly wished to see a prison devoted to women. This being the first in the kingdom, it was likely to prove a sort of model, should the example be followed in other places; she therefore considered it of great importance, that the arrangements should be as complete and effective as possible. Lord Mulgrave (Marquis of Normanby) the Lord Lieutenant, she had reason to believe, was earnestly anxious to carry out a wise, and yet merciful system of prison discipline. Mr. Spring Rice (Lord Monteagle) kindly furnished her with a letter of introduction to him, but in a note to herself, assures her that any introduction to that nobleman was unnecessary, which indeed she found verified, for the attention Lord Normanby gave to her suggestions, was not greater than his personal kindness and courtesy to herself and her friends, during their stay in Ireland.

The Grange Gorman Lane prison was completed early in 1837. After the lapse of ten years, it is thus mentioned in Major Cottingham's Report. Appendix to Twenty-fifth Report of Inspectors-General of Prisons in Ireland.

“Visited, February 18th, 1847.—Although I made my annual inspection of this prison on the 18th Feb-

ruary, 1847, as a date upon which to form my report, yet I have had very many opportunities of seeing it during the past and former years, in my duties connected with my superintendence of the convict department. The visitor may see many changes in the faces and persons of the prisoners, but no surprise can ever find a difference in the high and superior order with which this prison is conducted.

“The Matron, Mrs. Rawlins, upon whom the entire responsibility of the interior management devolves, was selected some years since, and sent over to this country by the benevolent and philanthropic Mrs. Fry, whose exertions in the cause of female prison reformation, were extended to all parts of the British Empire ; and who, although lately summoned to the presence of her Divine Master, has nowhere left a more valuable instance of her sound judgment, and high discriminating powers, than in the selection of Mrs. Rawlins to be placed at the head of this experimental prison, occupied alone by females ; and so successful has the experiment been, that I understand several other prisons solely for females, have lately been opened in Scotland, and even in Australia. In this prison is to be seen an uninterrupted system of reformatory discipline in every class, such as is to be found in no other prison, that I am aware of.”

The following extracts are from a letter written by the Matron, Mrs. Rawlins, dated September 1st, 1847.

“It is perhaps needless for me to tell you, that Mrs. Fry had long wished to have the trial made of an exclusively female prison. That Mrs. Fry’s plan has com-

pletely succeeded, every authority, both city and government, have borne ample and unqualified testimony ; but I regret to say, she never personally saw the fruit of her labour, not having visited Ireland since my residence here ; but to her wise, judicious, and maternal counsel (under Providence) I entirely ascribe the success that has attended our exertions. I never took any material step at the commencement, without consulting her, and at her own request, at least every week, I wrote an account of my movements ; and many obstacles that at first arose, she settled in her own quiet way by her influence with the government."

There was another subject which occupied Mrs. Fry's attention in Ireland, the state of the National Schools there ; she visited some and obtained minute reports of the state of many others. To effect this, she requested her friend James Doyle, who afterwards was examined before a committee of the House of Commons upon the subject, and another of her friends, to visit as many of these schools as they conveniently could, and to procure reports of others, which they could not personally inspect.

They accordingly visited all the Schools (as far as they could ascertain) under that system in the city and neighbourhood of Dublin, and some in the neighbourhood of Cork. From other parts of the country they received reports from creditable sources.

It appeared that in Dublin and the South of Ireland, there were in all 28 schools, containing 4400 children—79 only of whom were Protestants. Of the above—

Nine were attached to Roman Catholic Chapels,

Three on Chapel Premises,
One on Nunnery Premises,
Three conducted by Monks,
Twelve unattached.

In Belfast were two schools containing 800 children, of whom (in one) were 375 Protestants.

In most of the schools they found the scripture lessons recommended by the Board, but in very few instances, had they the appearance of having been read except in the Belfast School, where the Protestants were numerous. In all the other schools were found the Roman Catholic Catechism, and other books inculcating Roman Catholic doctrines, and in most of them they were daily taught. After hearing these details, but one conclusion could be formed, that the schools were falling rapidly under the power of the Roman Catholic priesthood, and that instead of affording Scriptural instruction generally, they gave but a fresh opportunity for inculcating the spirit of Popery. Even the Bible lessons, so strongly recommended by the Commissioners, were in most cases very little used, and then without the children being told from whence they were taken, or led to reverence the Bible as the word of God. It was not Mrs. Fry's wish to take a prominent part in any thing which she did not consider as an absolute duty, incumbent upon herself to perform. She communicated, upon her return to England, her observations to Lord Morpeth, but it was through her brother-in-law, Mr. Buxton, that she endeavoured to bring forward the dangers which she detected, in the working of the system. That she was most liberal, almost too liberal, no one who knew her

will deny ; but this very liberality caused her to disapprove of the expenditure of public money in the support of schools, professedly intended for the good of all, and to favour no sect or party, but in point of fact, excluding by their practical arrangements and internal government, the children of pious Protestants, and the superintendence of pious Protestant ministers, of every name.

Her return home was very happy—touchingly does she describe the pleasure her reception gave her.

Upton Lane, Fifth Month, 13th, 1836.—I returned home safely yesterday afternoon. I think I never had so happy and so prosperous an arrival—I wept with joy ; the stream appears to be turned for a while ; my tears have often flowed for sorrow, and now my beloved husband and children have caused them to flow for joy. I found not only all going on well, and having done so during my absence, but to please, comfort, and surprise me, my dearest husband had had my rooms altered and made most comfortable, and my children had sent me nice presents to render them more complete. Their offerings of love quite gladdened my heart, though far too good for me ; I felt utterly unworthy of them, I may say peculiarly so. I have seldom returned home more sensible of the hidden evils of my heart. Circumstances have unusually made me feel this. I fully believe in this going out, much help has been granted me in various ways ; my understanding has appeared to be enlightened more fully to see and comprehend gospel truth, and power has been given me to utter it boldly beyond what I could have supposed. The fear of man was much taken away in Ireland, when I had to tell

them what I believed to be home truths ———. I may say I am brought down under a very deep feeling of utter unworthiness ; and earnestly desire and pray, that whatever of our labours have been acceptable in the sight of our heavenly Father, they may be truly blessed to many, and not be in vain in Him ; and that whatever may have been in any way not according to His will, that He would in His own power prevent any harm from it arising to others.

The kindness shown to us by James and Hannah Doyle, Elizabeth Doyle, and their mother, is I think never to be forgotten, during our long stay with them ; also by our much valued friends Jonathan and Eliza Pim, and many others dearly loved in the Lord. My desires and prayers are strong, that being returned home, I may profit by the deep experience of this expedition. May my holy Redeemer cause me by His Spirit to walk very closely to Himself, keeping to the Truth in His Spirit, and by His power preserving me from impetuous zeal in holy things. In this Yearly Meeting, may very sound discretion be my portion. As for my home duties my longings are indescribable that I may perform them in deep humility, godliness, holy fear and love ; that I may be a preacher of righteousness in all things and in all ways.

Mrs. Fry's active exertions in behalf of the prisons of the United Kingdom generally, were drawing to a close. She had been an eminent instrument, in calling attention to the subject—but attention was now fully aroused, and the Prison Inspectors were pursuing their scrutinies with great and good effect.

Other matters, however, pressed upon her attention ; nothing so much as the state of the Prisons in Guernsey and Jersey ; in the latter prison, the difficulties of remedying the existing evils appeared almost insurmountable. Dr. Bisset Hawkins had visited both these gaols, and carefully investigated their state ; he had also given his attention in Jersey to the points in dispute between the States and the Governor, Field-Marshal Lord Beresford. In his report to Lord John Russell, he describes the prison as in the most neglected state, exhibiting almost every defect in arrangement, which a prison is capable of displaying, and suffering under the absence of many common essentials, such as “ clothing, suitable bedding, soap, washing, white-washing, while the keeper appears to be almost his own master, and is appointed by the Bailiff of the Island, although he derives his emoluments from the Governor.”

Dr. Hawkins's proposed arrangement met with the concurrence of Lord John Russell, who recommended their adoption to the States. By that body Lord John Russell's communication was very fairly received, and the alterations suggested by them proved unimportant. Mrs. Fry took a lively interest in the subject as it proceeded ; and was urged by many of her island friends, again to go to Jersey, before the contemplated buildings were begun.

Lord John Russell had favoured her with an interview on the subject, and she had frequently communicated with Lord Beresford. On this, as on many other occasions, her knowledge of the subject, and her facility in devising expedients, occasioned her not merely to be

listened to with attention, but not unfrequently her counsel to be sought. And it is due to men of different parties, who successively guided the helm of State, to acknowledge, that her remarks were invariably received with courtesy, and where (as was generally the case), the subject matter approved itself to their own judgments, her advice as invariably followed. How much of this was owing to her extreme caution in forming opinions, and her nice discretion in bringing them forward, will be discerned by those, who, whilst they read the history of her life, observe and comprehend her mental qualities. She considered that her presence might prove serviceable in Jersey ; she was earnest that the arrangements about to be made there should be as complete as possible, especially for women. She wished again to inspect the Hospital, and to see the working of the District Society. Similar objects attracted her to Guernsey. She believed also, that it was her duty to visit the island of Alderney, where she had never yet been.

To her husband and daughter, the idea of a renewed tarriance in Jersey was entirely agreeable—but in her heart, an impediment existed, which occasioned her no little conflict, many doubts, and much distress, before she could determine upon the allotted path of duty.

Her sister, Mrs. Samuel Hoare, had never rallied from the loss of her eldest son. She bowed in submission to the blow, but never recovered the shock, and though she was enabled to persevere in all her duties with much true Christian cheerfulness, it was evident to those who loved her, that the serious injury her constitution had received was slowly but surely undermining the powers

of life. Never, perhaps, had a son been more to his mother, than her first-born son had been to Mrs. Hoare—never the tie of affection or sympathy stronger. She had reared him with a firm, but most tender hand ; he had passed through the slippery paths of youth and early manhood singularly intact, and had distinguished himself at College, which he quitted with high credit, to enter with equal diligence a business career with his father in London. He had only left the home of his parents, when united to one, as much their choice as his own. Blessed as husband and father with all outward prosperity, suddenly the message came, “Thou shalt die, and not live.” He returned to his father’s house, for a few weeks of deep illness and sedulous nursing ; there, in perfect, acknowledged and most simple reliance on the wisdom and goodness of God his Saviour, in all His dealings with the children of men, he left his father’s house, on earth, for the eternal home prepared for him by his Father in heaven.

Mrs. Hoare was to Mrs. Fry a beloved sister, a faithful and unfailing friend, and often a wise counsellor—she being a woman of a large and comprehensive mind, excellent in judgment, and of very uncommon cultivation. As a mother, nothing more need be said of her, than that the principles inculcated in her writings,* she carried out in daily practice, enlarging and expanding as her children advanced in life.

At the time that Mrs. Fry was preparing to leave England, it became obvious that her sister was approach-

* Hints for the Improvement of Early Education and Nursery Discipline.

ing that "country from whose bourn no traveller returns." There are many who believe that they "acknowledge God in all their ways," trusting in Him "to direct their paths;" but there are not many who carry this belief into the practice of life, or are from experience, able to unite with Judge Hale in his assertion, that—

"They who truly fear God, have a secret guidance from a higher wisdom than what is barely human, viz., the Spirit of Truth and Godliness—which doth really, though secretly, prevent and direct them. Any man that sincerely and truly fears Almighty God, and calls and relies upon him for his direction, *has it as really as a son has the counsel and direction of his father*; and though the voice be not audible, nor discernible by sense, yet it is as real as if a man heard a voice, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'

"Though this secret direction of Almighty God, is principally seen in matters relating to the soul, yet it may also be found in the concerns of this life, which a good man that fears God and begging his direction, will *very often, if not at all times* find. I can call my own experience to witness, that *even in the temporal concerns of my whole life*, I have never been disappointed of the best direction, when I have, in humility and sincerity implored it."

Elizabeth Fry was one of the few who sought this guidance, and there probably lay the secret of her strength. She watched for opportunity, she waited for occasion, she listened for the Father's voice, but when heard, unhesitatingly pursued her way.

She believed it her duty to go to Jersey, at any sacrifice of personal feeling, and this view was confirmed, by knowing that by her suffering sister she was not needed; everything that love or skill could effect, being done for Mrs. Hoare, by her own family and her other sisters. Another circumstance tended to satisfy Mrs. Fry as to the rectitude of her decision, her sister-in-law Elizabeth Fry, then in very delicate health, having been advised again to visit the Channel Islands, where she had before derived much benefit from the mild sea air. She, with Mr. and Mrs. Fry, and their daughter, embarked at Southampton, on a calm fine evening, with every prospect of a pleasant voyage, but these favourable appearances were not of long duration. About four o'clock in the morning, all on board were roused by the sudden stopping of the vessel. A dense fog had come on, when passing through the intricate passage between the Caskets and the Island of Alderney. The packet remained for many hours entangled amongst rocks, with the fog so thick, that it was not always easy to see the length of the vessel.

Happily, may it not be called providentially, there was as passenger in the steamer, the old Guernsey pilot who had brought Lord de Saumarez, and two frigates under his command, into Guernsey, in the presence of a superior French force, by piloting them through a passage generally considered impracticable. Of his advice and assistance, the Captain himself a skilful pilot took advantage, and after a time of careful navigation, the joyful tidings spread among the passengers, that the jeopardy was over, that they were through the channel,

and once more in the open sea. The spirit of her mind was exemplified in Mrs. Fry's remark to her daughter, at this instant, "I have felt it very doubtful whether this was not to be for us the dawn of the eternal, instead of the earthly Sabbath ; I thought it rather the Church above, than the Church below, we were to join to-day."

For a few weeks the Hospital, the District Society, and the prisons, occupied Mrs. Fry's attention in Jersey, and she accomplished to her own satisfaction visits to Alderney and Guernsey. Then the accounts of Mrs. Hoare became more alarming, her objects in the Channel Islands were nearly accomplished, and she prepared for her departure.

A Committee of Ladies was established for visiting the Hospital in Jersey, with the Lady of the Lieutenant-Governor General Campbell at its head. The District Society was increasing in usefulness, the new House of Correction was likely to be established on the best principles ; and she had the comfort of knowing, that all these objects were left under the skilful and efficient superintendence of her kind friend Major-General Touzel, who had been with other Jersey gentlemen, faithful coadjutors in her various labours.

She found her sister living, and pleased to see her ; a slight revival for a few days was a relief to Mrs. Fry, for it gave her a little time to prepare for the coming sorrow, and to minister according to her measure, to this beloved one, both naturally and spiritually.

This solemn duty ended, she returned to Upton Lane, almost alone, her husband and daughter having crossed

from Jersey into Normandy. In a letter to one of her children she tells of her circumstances and occupations.

“ I fancy you arriving to-morrow from Cresswell, and I write for a letter ; in my quiet home it would be a treat to hear from thee. I much value and enjoy the true kindness I receive from all my married children. I have lately daily dined with one of them ; it has made me think of thee, my loved child, and thy dear husband, particularly when the other day at Joseph's, on his birthday, I sat surrounded by all the married pairs. I am much disposed to pay you a visit. I deeply feel, in the loss of my beloved sister, the shortness of the time that I may be with you. No remaining duty has dwelt so much on my mind as my relative duties, that I may be enabled to minister to my beloved husband or children, brothers or sisters, as they may want it, either spiritually or temporally. May we all do our part faithfully towards each other, seeing how little we know how soon we may part ! I have written to Harrow, to ask your dear Frank to come and see me ; I think it right he should do so after my long absence ; I have requested him to ask Dr. Wordsworth to let him come on Seventh-day, to stay over the Sabbath. Our garden is lovely, and house pleasant ; so our Heavenly Father deals very kindly with his unworthy servant.”

CHAPTER XVII.

SUMMONS TO CALAIS—DEATH OF A SISTER-IN-LAW—ACCOMPANIES HER BROTHER, JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY, TO LIVERPOOL—HIS DEPARTURE FOR AMERICA—PARAMATTA FACTORY—LETTER TO HER CHILDREN—PHILANTHROPIC EVENINGS—LETTER—VISITS FRANCE—LETTER FROM ABBEVILLE—SOJOURN AT PARIS—PRISONS—SCHOOLS—RETURN THROUGH NORMANDY.

ON the 2nd of October, when going into the Friends Select Quarterly Meeting, with her brother, Samuel Gurney, her son William met her with the painful tidings, that a serious accident had befallen Mr. Fry and his daughter, in Normandy. They had been thrown over a precipice, and the carriage broken to pieces; and although their lives were mercifully spared, yet her daughter was so grievously hurt, and her husband so shaken, that they wished her to go to them immediately. Accompanied by her son William, she travelled to Dover, and crossed by the next packet to France.

From Calais she wrote home:—

Ninth Month, 25th, 1836.—William and I reached Dover soon after twelve o'clock last evening. We were settled by one o'clock, and off about half-past seven this morning. Our journey was an anxious one, until, as the evening advanced, I became more quieted, and trustful that all was ordered for us in mercy and wisdom. We

had a very favourable passage of three hours ; and, to our great satisfaction, found your father looking for us on the quay. We found our dearest Kate exceedingly bruised and very grievously hurt altogether. Your dear father looks, I think, shaken and aged by all he has gone through. Mary has been a very attentive nurse. She looks also jaded ; but, from her excessive fright, when they were going down the hill, she knelt down and put her head on Katherine's lap, by which means her face was perfectly saved. And so I have at last touched French ground. William and I have not been idle ; we have already visited the prison and hospital. We hope it may please Providence, in tender mercy, to permit us all to arrive at home next Seventh-day, probably by a packet that leaves this place that morning for London.

With her son she went for one day to St. Omer. Her remarks on the Roman Catholic institutions are characteristic.

I was a good deal instructed as well as interested in visiting the Roman Catholic charities. The sacrifice that must be made, to give up the whole life, as the Sisters of Charity do, to teach and bring up the poor children, and attend to the sick in their hospitals, is very exemplary ; and the slackness of some Protestants, and coldness of too many, led me to think, that whilst on the one hand the meritoriousness of good works may be unsoundly upheld by the Roman Catholics, yet that it stimulates to much that is excellent, and a fear arose in my mind, that the true doctrine that teaches that we have no merit in any thing that we do, is either so injudiciously represented, or so misunderstood, that in too

many cases it leads to laxity as to sin, and a want of diligence in works of righteousness and true holiness. I was much interested in attending High Mass ; even here I thought I saw something of the work of true religion, under what appeared to me the rubbish of superstition and show. But I also thought, that much of the same thing remained amongst Protestants. I long to see true religion, in its purity and simplicity, spread more and more, to the glory of God and the peace of men.

Mrs. Fry's return home was followed by a fresh case of anxious nursing, to which she sedulously devoted herself. From the sick chamber of one daughter, she writes, to soothe the sufferings and sorrows of another, who, with her little boy, was dangerously ill with the scarlet fever :—

“ The very affecting account from you is just arrived ; to think of that lovely boy laid so prostrate ! Still, sweet babe ! it is good to remember, “ that of such is the kingdom of God,” and the encouraging, delightful idea, that their angels or ministering spirits, are always before the face of our God. I am afraid of asking for his life, lest he should be contaminated in this evil world, but I can ask, if in the mercy of our Heavenly Father, He should see meet to keep him in the world, that He would preserve him from the evil ; and that should he be raised up, it may be for purposes of His own glory. But it is a trial indeed, to flesh and blood—I have found it a bitter one, to see these little ones suffer—but as thy dear husband truly says, we must in all things learn to say, “ not my will but Thine be done.”

The last day of 1836 is closed by Elizabeth Fry with these words :—

“ Alone, late in the evening, I feel it rather a solemn close to this year, not a time of brightness, though abounding with causes for thankfulness—which I desire more deeply to feel. May my Lord grant, for His dear Son’s sake, that the Holy Spirit may more abundantly rest upon me and mine, as our Guide, Sanctifier, and Comforter. May I more faithfully, watchfully, and humbly perform all my duties to my Lord, my family, my friends, the church generally, and the world, and to myself ; in afflictions may my soul be possessed in patience and watchfulness ! and may every day draw us nearer to God and his kingdom !”

At Earlham, four days later, she adds :—

Earlham, First Month 4th, 1837. It is rather striking to begin my new year here. The drawing of my mind led me this way, and I ventured to leave all, in faith, after offering many prayers for their help and preservation during my absence. My prayers have been expressed in public, in my family, and in private, upon entering this new year. There are cries from the depth of my heart, unutterable ; but He who is my advocate with the Father, will, I trust, availingly present them before the throne. I may say, “ Help, Lord, or I perish !” Grant, through thy love, pity, and grace, that I may know Thee always, in all places, and at all times, to be my Defence—my Help—my Counsellor. Enlighten my darkness, cause me, in all things, to choose the good and refuse the evil ; lighten mine eyes always lest I sleep the sleep of death, and Satan in any way

blind mine eyes. Pour forth more fully, and more freely, Thy Spirit upon me, that I may be qualified for Thy work, in my family, amongst my neighbours, in the church, and wherever Thou mayst call me.

The commencement of 1837 brought with it the consideration of a subject not new to the mind of Elizabeth Fry, one which she dared neither accept nor dismiss without prayerful deliberation.

Upton Lane, First Month 25th.—My heart and mind have been much occupied, by my brother Joseph writing to inform me, that he apprehends it will be his duty to go to America this year, upon religious service. The subject is deeply important and weighty, yet I desire to rejoice in his willingness to give up all for the service of his Lord ; though some fears have arisen from a sort of floating apprehension I have had for many years, that I might or ought to go with him, if ever he visited that land. Upon viewing it, as it respects myself, I believe I may truly say, I do not at present see any such opening. As far as I can see, *home* has my first call of duty ; what the future may produce I leave ; but as far as I know my own heart, I very earnestly desire to feel continually that I am not my own, but bought with a price, therefore I am my Lord's servant, and must do as I am bidden, even if the service called for appear to me unreasonable. But I must further observe, that in condescending mercy, I have generally found in services really called for, there has been a ripeness that may be compared to the fruit come to maturity. For this service, for the present, I see no way.

A few days only had elapsed before her journal records tidings of peculiar sorrow :—

Second Month, 11th.—Yesterday, when I went to town to visit Newgate, I was stopped by Foster Reynolds, saying, that he had sad tidings for me ; which proved to be—that my beloved sister Harriet was most suddenly taken, leaving eight young children and my poor dear brother. Still, I trust not “left,” because surely his Lord will be near, to help him in this very deep sorrow. Of course, we are brought very low by this fresh family affliction. Deeply do I desire, that it may be sanctified to us all. The same post brought, yesterday, the account from my brother Joseph, that he had laid his concern to visit America before his Monthly Meeting. So, one brother is called to do, the other to suffer ; may our Lord’s will be done, by and through them both.

15th.—The funeral of my much-loved sister takes place to-day. What a scene of unutterable sorrow at Runcton, where, a few days ago, all was in no common degree, joy, peace, and great prosperity. Oh ! what occasions are these, where families meet together for the affecting and solemn purpose of committing the remains of a beloved one to the silent grave !

May the Lord Himself lift up the light of His countenance upon them, bless them, and keep them in a sound mind and sound faith. Be pleased, oh gracious Lord ! to help, pity, and comfort these afflicted ones this day.

No event could be more startling or more touching than this. Lady Harriet Gurney had entered the family, when many of the elder members had reached the

meridian of life. She had come, not alone to gladden her own domestic hearth, but to diffuse of her bright, loving, hopeful spirit, amongst her husband's relatives. For fourteen years she had in an exemplary manner, fulfilled the duties of wife and mother, friend and mistress—

“ A spirit, yet a woman too.”

Her brother-in-law, the late Sir Fowell Buxton, wrote on the day of her funeral :—“ In seeing her coffin committed to the vault, I could not but feel, that it contained all that remained of as much beauty and true loveliness of mind, body, and spirit, as we ever saw removed from this world !”

When the time drew near for Joseph John Gurney to leave his home and children for so long a time, his sister went to him at Earlham. There also assembled other members of the family. At Norwich a large and most solemn Meeting was held, as a sort of leave-taking of his fellow-citizens. In this Meeting Elizabeth Fry took part, and with more than her usual power ministered to the numerous assemblage there. Then, with his children, and his brother Samuel Gurney and his wife, he set forth on his journey to Liverpool, Mrs. Fry accompanying them. At Runcton they tarried one night with their brother, Daniel Gurney and his eight children, so lately deprived of the blessing of a mother's watchful love. It was very touching to find themselves on board the ship, which was to convey this beloved one from them, though sustained by the belief that this wonderful sacrifice for those who were left, as for him who was about

to go, was in obedience to the call of duty, and for the service of their Lord. Thus his sister closes this history.

Soon afterwards we went to the ship. I saw the library arranged with some others to help me ; then went and devoted myself to my beloved brother, put sweet flowers in his cabin, which was made most comfortable for him. It was announced that the ship was going ; we assembled in the ladies' cabin—I believe all wept. William Forster said, the language had powerfully impressed him—"I will be with you always, even to the end of the world ;" therefore we might trust our beloved ones to Him who had promised. I then knelt down with these words—"Now, Lord, what wait we for, our hope is in Thee," and entirely committed him and his companions in the ship, to the most holy and powerful keeping of Israel's Shepherd, that even the voyage might be blessed to him and to others. In short, our souls were poured forth before and unto the Lord, in deep prayer, and supplication. Joseph almost sobbed, still a solemn quiet and peace reigned over us. I believe the Lord was with us, and owned us at this solemn time. We left the ship and walked by the side of the pier until they were towed out, then we went away and wept bitterly ; but not the tears of deep sorrow, far from it ; how different to the grief for sin, or even disease, or the perplexities of life. It appeared the Lord's doing though long marvellous in my eyes ; yet I now trust and believe it is His call, and therefore it is well, and there is more cause to rejoice than to mourn over it. We remained at Liverpool till Second-day morning ; went by the railroad to Birmingham, meeting with an

accident by the way which might have been serious, but we were preserved from harm. I became at last very poorly, and one morning nearly fainted. I was much sunk, and brought once more to feel my deep infirmity in illness or suffering. By the time we arrived at Lynn, I was too ill to go on to Earlham, and there remained to be most affectionately cared for by my beloved son and daughter, and their servants. I afterwards went to Earlham, and from thence to Lowestoft. I much valued my visits, only my foolish nature was too anxious to enjoy them as I might have done, fancying I was wanted at home. We truly partook of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. I am favoured on returning home, to find my children unusually well, and receive good accounts from my husband and sons on the Continent; so that, once more it has pleased the Lord to permit me to rest as beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul!

On Mrs. Fry's return home, two important objects in her public life claimed her attention, arrangements for the great Female Prison in Ireland, and the factory for women at Paramatta; the latter when first established was intended as a prison for women, and arranged for the reception of refractory as well as unassigned prisoners. It was well disciplined, and the inmates divided into three classes; a distinction being very properly made in the treatment of the different classes. Gradually, the establishment, from mismanagement fell into great confusion; so that from being a place of punishment, it had become a home and refuge for the idle and profligate, preferred by them to service and hard work.

In the Factory they were fed and clothed, and lived in idleness amongst congenial companions, and having once incurred the disgrace of being sent there, soon lost all sense of shame, and after being released, again offended for the express purpose of returning hither. It was a great satisfaction to the ladies of the British Society, to learn that a system so subversive of every hope of moral improvement had been altered. By the introduction of hard labour and strict discipline, the Factory was reconverted into a place of punishment, and other measures were in progress likely to conduce to the reformation of the prisoners. Sir Richard Bourke endeavoured not only to reform the Factory arrangements, but to induce ladies suitable for the office, again to visit it. Immense advantage had accrued to the institution, from the regulations and occasional inspection of Lady Darling, supported by the authority of Sir Ralph. Lord Glenelg and Sir George Grey paid the subject every attention, not meeting the case as one merely of business routine and political expediency, but with kindness of heart and real philanthropy they entered into details, and endeavoured to obtain information from every available source. Mr. Clapham as Superintendent, and Mrs. Leach as Matron, were sent out to take the charge of the Factory, with full and minute directions for their own conduct, and supplied in England with every thing required for the occupation and instruction of its inmates, or furnished with orders for them on the Government stores there.

About the time that some improvement appeared likely to take place amongst the wretched inmates of the

Paramatta Factory, the long-debated question of the Jersey Prison was brought to a close, by the accession of the States to the proposals of Lord John Russell ; and arrangements being entered into for commencing the building without further delay. Mrs. Fry never again visited Jersey, but she had the pleasure of cheering reports, from time to time, of the alterations effected there.

As the objects for which she had laboured were thus completed, or passed into other hands, fresh interests arose to occupy her. Amongst her children many had begun, more or less, to assist her in her plans and pursuits for the good of others ; this was exceedingly cheering to her, and she much desired its continuance and increase ; but there was a purpose infinitely nearer to her heart, than even this union for external objects, however excellent in themselves ; she craved closer and more direct religious communion with her children.

Impressed with this desire, she addressed a letter to her children, explaining her feelings and wishes.

Upton Lane, Eighth Month 15th, 1837.

MY DEAREST CHILDREN,

Many of you know that for some time, I have felt and expressed the want of our social intercourse at times, leading to religious union and communion amongst us. It has pleased the Almighty to permit, that by far the larger number of you, no longer walk with me in my religious course. Except very occasionally, we do not meet together for the solemn purpose of worship, and upon some other points we do not see eye to eye ;

and whilst I feel deeply sensible that notwithstanding this diversity amongst us, we are truly united in our Holy Head, there are times when in my declining years, I seriously feel the loss of not having more of the spiritual help and encouragement of those I have brought up, and truly sought to nurture in the Lord. This has led me to many serious considerations how the case may, under present circumstances, be in any way met.

My conclusion is, that believing as we do in one Lord as our Saviour, one Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier, and one God and Father of us all, our points of union are surely strong ; and if we are members of one living Church, and expect to be such for ever, we may profitably unite in some religious engagements here below.

The world and the things of it occupy us much, and they are rapidly passing away ; it would be well if we occasionally set apart a time for unitedly attending to the things of Eternity. I therefore propose that we try the following plan ; if it answer, continue it, if not, by no means feel bound to it. That our party in the first instance, should consist of no others than our children and such grandchildren as may be old enough to attend. That our object in meeting, be for the strengthening of our faith, for our advancement in a devoted, religious, and holy life, and for the object of promoting Christian love and fellowship.

That we read the Scriptures unitedly, in an easy familiar manner, each being perfectly at liberty to make any remark or ask any question ; that it should be a time of religious instruction by seeking to understand the mind of the Lord, for doctrine and practice in search-

ing the Scriptures, and bringing ourselves and our deeds to the light, that it may be made manifest if they are wrought in God. That either before or after the Scriptures are read, we should consider how far we are really engaged for the good of our fellow-men, and what, as far as we can judge, most conduces to this object. All the members of this little community are advised to communicate any thing they may have found useful or interesting in religious books, and to bring forward any thing that is doing for the good of mankind, in the world generally.

I hope that thus meeting together may stimulate the family to more devotion of heart to the service of their God at home, and abroad to mind their different callings, however varied ; and to be active in helping others. It is proposed that this meeting should take place once a month, at each house in rotation.

I now have drawn some little outline of what I desire, and if any of you like to unite with me in making the experiment, it would be very gratifying to me ; still, I hope that all will feel at liberty, to do as they think best themselves.

I am indeed,

Your nearly attached mother,

ELIZABETH FRY.

The plan was tried, and found to answer exceedingly well. Some of the collateral branches of the family afterwards joined these little *réunions* ; they proved occasions of stimulus in "every good word and work." Some important good has resulted from the combined exertion consequent upon them ; they continue to this day

under the name of "philanthropic evenings;" and were always concluded by a Scripture reading, and occasionally by prayer.

One of the first subjects brought forward, was the condition of the coalwhippers in the port of London. Lieutenant Arnold, of the navy, had long advocated their cause, at great expense to himself, and at length applied to one of Mrs. Fry's sons, to assist him in carrying forward a plan for their benefit. In visiting the poor in Ratcliffe, Mrs. Fry found the wives of some of these men, who were nominally in receipt of large wages, not only in a condition of abject poverty, but resorting to most undesirable means to obtain a living. Their husbands bringing home little or no money, in consequence of the system by which their occupation was regulated. The coalwhippers work, in what are called gangs, of nine men in each. They are remarkably athletic, and their labour is very severe. They require baskets and tackle, which in those days were the property of the publicans along the banks of the river Thames, to whom the captains of the colliers applied when they wanted to discharge a cargo. The publicans let out the tackle to the coalwhippers, always giving the preference for employment to those who owed them most money for beer. They supplied them whilst at work, with enormous quantities of porter, and expected them to drink at other times also, by which means their wages fell entirely into the hands of the publicans, whilst their families at home were left in great distress. The evil appeared so great, that several of the gentlemen of Mrs. Fry's family exerted themselves, and were at considerable expense, to assist Lieu-

tenant Arnold in his benevolent views, until finding it impossible to accomplish their object by private means, three of them appeared as petitioners on behalf of the coalwhippers, at the bar of the Common Council of the city ; applications to the Government were also put in form. The result was, a most favourable reception of the subject, and a Bill has since passed, by which the coalwhippers are registered, have a public office of their own, where their tackle is kept, and are completely emancipated from the thralldom of the publicans ; rendering numerous families respectable and independent, who before wanted the commonest comforts of life.

Mrs. Fry's first visit to France had been compulsory, but she had long desired to visit that country. She had been urgently pressed to do so by many individuals amongst the Protestant bodies there.

She had reason to believe also, that she would have access to influential quarters, and be able to bring before the proper authorities the deplorable condition of some of the French prisoners. Her husband was disposed to accompany her, and their friend, Joseph Forster, and Lydia Irving, the same young friend who had gone with her to Jersey, in 1835, most kindly went with them.

In Paris, comfortable and commodious apartments were prepared for them at the Hotel de Castille, by the kind attention of M. François Delessert. They arrived there on the 30th of January, very tired and very cold. The morning of the 31st was opened with solemn united prayer, offered for wisdom from on High, to direct, and strength to perform, whatever might be called for at their hands. Then came a visit from Madame François

Delessert, two notes from Lord Granville, our Ambassador at Paris ; a call at the Embassy, and in the evening the company of M. and Madame de Pressensé, the Secretary of the Bible Society.

In a letter to her children at home, Mrs. Fry not merely describes their rooms at the Hotel, and gives a plan of them, but sends a little sketch, drolly characteristic of the *femme-de-chambre* and the waiter.

February 1st, they attended the small Friends' Meeting, held in the Faubourg du Roule, and afterwards called on La Baronne Pelet de la Lozere. In her Mrs. Fry found a friend and sister in Christ. They then paid a visit to Count Montalivet, Minister of the Interior, by whom they were most kindly received, and promised all needful admissions to the different prisons.

Afterwards, at the Hotel, they received visits from the Duchess de Broglie and other ladies. The following day found Mrs. Fry oppressed and feverish, and evidently suffering from the cold she had endured on her journey. Her new friends all displayed the liveliest sympathy, whilst Madame Pelet, in particular, neglected no kindness or attention that could add to her comfort.

The 3rd, though too unwell to go out, Mrs. Fry received in the evening M. de Metz, Conseiller de la Cour Royale, and had much important conversation with him on the subject of prisons, in which he was greatly interested. On the 4th, she paid pleasant visits to Lady Granville and to Madame Pelet. On Sunday, the day began with seeing a school, conducted by M. de Pressensé, for two hundred children—a most cheering and delightful sight. At twelve o'clock they attended the

Friends' Meeting ; there were assembled French, English, a Pole, and Americans. Among this motley group might be found Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, various Dissenters, and Quakers.

Monday, the 5th, they visited the St. Lazare Prison, for women, containing nine hundred and fifty-two inmates, a very melancholy sight. An American lady invited the party to her house in the evening, where she received about fifty individuals, mostly English and American. The conversation turned upon the general state of society in Europe, but especially in France, and what would be the most likely means of benefiting its polished, refined, but dissipated and irreligious capital. The fearful writings of the day, "many too bad to read," were discussed, and the question mooted, what could be the root of a tree, of which the branches bore such deadly fruit? There was present, on that occasion, a young medical student, who addressed himself to Mrs. Fry, on the fearful contamination to which young men, in his position, were exposed ; no domestic home to retire to, none of that indefinable but potent influence around them, of public opinion, in favour of virtue and morality ; their studies all tending to materialism, and to the lessening of that dependence upon an unseen superior Power, which lingers even in the unregenerate heart of man ; and, above all, little or no opportunity afforded them for the commonest religious advantage. This large gathering concluded by solemn exhortation and prayer.

On the 6th, accompanied by Madame Delessert, the travellers visited a French Protestant school, for two

hundred children, on the British and Foreign system, admirably conducted by a valuable committee of ladies. They dined at M. Pressensé's, where was a large party afterwards ; many of them active members of the Société Evangélique. Mrs. Fry entered deeply into their labours of love, and spoke of this occasion as very encouraging to her, when she compared it with the state of things in France during her youth, and how unlikely it then seemed, that such a dawn of better things would ever appear there.

The 7th, they received many guests, both morning and evening, and in the course of the day accompanied the Duchess de Broglie to the Prison des Jeunes Détenus, a good new building, the inmates well ordered, but still capable of improvement.

The following day was occupied by attending their Meeting in the morning, and in the evening receiving a party of ladies, to consider how they might, in the best manner, promote good in the city, in prisons, schools, district societies, and similar objects. The evening was finished by reading the 15th chapter of St. Luke.

On the 9th, the prison for men (La Force) was visited. A dinner at M. Pelet's, and a very large party there in the evening.

The 10th, they inspected the military prison at St. Germain, which appeared to them to be upon the whole well conducted, and in tolerable order ; books they found to be greatly wanted. Afterwards they saw the Central Prison at Poissy, but whilst they admired its good order, they considered it not sufficiently penal, too

much like a large manufactory for different trades, instead of a place of punishment.

The following day—the Sabbath—was indeed welcome, for its rest was greatly needed by Elizabeth Fry. She desired that it might be free from company, and prove a season of refreshment, the press of people being so great, and the subjects for consideration so many, and so exceedingly important. The Meeting was not a very large one ; in it their certificates were read. They appeared much to interest those who heard them, and opened the way for a little explanation of Friends' principles. There were a few callers in the evening, amongst others, a gentleman interested about prisons, who remained during their Scripture reading, at which some of the servants of the Hotel were also present.

On the 12th, they visited the prison of the Conciergerie. There they saw the room where the unhappy Marie Antoinette was confined. They took tea at Mr. Toase's, successor to Mr. Newstead, the Methodist minister, and passed an interesting evening with a large party of his congregation. At this time, and in her subsequent visits to France, Mrs. Fry's sympathies were much drawn forth towards the French Methodists, who appeared to her to be an earnest and spiritual people.

The next morning they went to some schools, one, an Infant School, was particularly attractive, the superintendents appearing well adapted for their important post ; money was given to purchase the little creatures each a bun, which highly delighted them, their happy faces showing how pleased they were. Also an Hospital, and the *Enfans Trouvés*, were visited. Mrs. Fry's

maternal experience, led her to give some advice about the poor babies' dress, that it might be less complicated, and afford them more liberty of movement. The nuns appeared kind. The Hospital they found very close, and wanting ventilation. In the evening to Mr. Lutteroth's, where between fifty and sixty persons were present, a "charming company," "many amongst them truly serious."

On the 14th, another visit was paid to the Women's Prison of St. Lazare. There, after going over the building, the women were collected at Mrs. Fry's request, that a portion of Scripture might be read to them. She chose the parable of the prodigal son. It was beautifully read by a French lady, from the Roman Catholic Prayer Book. A pause ensued, when Mrs. Fry commented upon it; the same lady translated for her, sentence by sentence. It was exceedingly well done, losing little or nothing of its solemnity. The women were touched and impressed. She then asked them whether they would like ladies to visit them, read to them, and sympathize with them. The offer was eagerly accepted. "Oui, oui," "Eh, moi, aussi!" came from all sides; nor was it only these poor outcasts, or those accompanying Mrs. Fry, who wept; the jailor and turnkeys who had entered the room, contrary to her wish, were so affected that tears ran down their cheeks. "Elles ne sont pas pire que nous, ces pauvres femmes," (said an excellent lady for the first time brought into contact with such as these,) "seulement les circonstances sont toutes pour nous, et toutes contre elles."

This reading occasioned quite a sensation in Paris, for

it had been said, that the wonderful effect of Mrs. Fry's readings in Newgate arose from her peculiar voice and manner, her skill in arresting the attention of her auditors, and her power to touch their hearts. She and others attributed it to the simple indwelling power of the word of God, and asserted that it would be found the same whatever national differences might exist, or by whomsoever the inspired word might be presented. The result on this occasion was decisive.

They saw on the 15th, a school for about forty-five Protestants, many of them training for servants. To find attention paid to this class afforded them much satisfaction. In the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Fry dined at the English Embassy. Throughout their stay in Paris the kindness and attention of Lord and Lady Granville were unfailing.

The next day, some more "delightful schools" were inspected, and a prison for debtors.

In the evening, the party for the promotion of philanthropic objects, which had been adjourned the preceding week, again met; much interesting conversation took place. As on the previous evening, the party concluded with reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures, and solemn prayer.

On the 17th, Mrs. Fry had an interview with the prison officers, and obtained much information respecting the state of St. Lazare Female Prison. Madame Pelet and Madame Jules Mallet interpreting for her. They saw M. Toase on the subject of fitting up a room as a library for the benefit of English and American students, and in the evening they went to Mr. Baird's,

the American clergyman, to meet some of them, who are invited there every Saturday to read the Scriptures, &c. &c. A young Englishman present expressed himself strongly ; warning his cotemporaries, first, on the awful prevalence of taking the Sacred Name in vain, secondly, the desecration of the Sabbath, and thirdly, against the literature of modern France, poisoned as it is with infidelity and licentiousness.

The 19th was devoted by Mrs. Fry to writing observations on the prisons which she had seen ; to making some calls ; and in the evening receiving several gentlemen to consider and talk over prison subjects.

On the 20th, they visited the Salpêtrière, an Hospital for the old, infirm, epileptic, idiotic, and insane. The building stands on nine acres of ground, and the whole establishment occupies ninety-eight. There are five thousand inmates. They were exceedingly struck with the kindness manifested towards them, particularly towards the insane, so much liberty being given them ; formerly, these unhappy creatures were chained and cruelly treated. Amidst the good order which prevailed, they found one sad omission, the absence of all religious instruction. Proved, as it has long been, that this unfortunate class of persons have been helped and soothed by the blessed promises of Scripture, and capable in many instances, notwithstanding their mental infirmity of feeling and appropriating the Christian's hope, this was very lamentable.

A third visit was paid on the 21st to the St. Lazare, in company with Lady Granville, Lady Georgiana Fullerton, and two other ladies. From what was witnessed

in these visits, it was obvious, that great good would result from the regular attendance of a Ladies' Committee, though no easy matter to arrange it. In the evening, went to M. De Metz's. Great had been the kindness of this gentleman and his brother-in-law, M. Piron, in going about with them to the different prisons.

On the 22nd, M. Berenger came to breakfast, when the conversation was almost entirely on subjects referring to prisons. The Friends' Meeting that morning was an important one, the ministry leading all to Christ, His finished and full salvation. Many strangers and persons of different denominations were there. Afterwards, Mrs. Fry met several ladies at the Duchess de Broglie's, to consider the possibility of forming a Committee for visiting prisons. They dined at M. Rumpff's, Minister of the Hanse Towns. The Duke Decazes was there, with whom Mrs. Fry had much conversation, the Duchess Decazes, and the Duke and Duchess de Broglie.

The 23rd, they breakfasted at Mr. Mark Wilk's at Passy, where they had the gratification of meeting M. David, the sculptor. Afterwards they called on Madame Pelet and Madame de Pastoret, concluding the day by a dinner at the Duke de Broglie's.

The following morning was occupied in looking over a convent, and some schools conducted by Sisters of Charity. They dined at M. Jules Mallet's; there were about twenty at dinner, and nearly a hundred in the evening; "a most interesting company"—several hitherto unknown to them—"many young people," which was "delightful" to Mrs. Fry.

On the 25th, was their last Meeting at Paris, a very large and solemn one it proved.

The 26th was devoted to the discussion of prison subjects with the Prefect of Police. They dined at M. Dutrone's, the Deputy for Amiens.

The 27th, they paid some important calls, and had a large Committee of Ladies to consider prison subjects, though there were too many present to effect much. The party that day dined with the veteran philanthropist, the Baron de Gerando.

During the 28th they received many callers, paid leave-taking visits, and dined at the Duke Decazes'.

The 2nd, was the day appointed for them to wait upon the King and Queen, and the Duchess of Orleans. They dined at M. de Salvandi's, Minister of Public Instruction, and were quite delighted in accompanying him to see a large library and room fitted up for the use of the middle classes.

Their two last days in Paris were occupied by winding up their different objects, and preparing to depart.

The result of her observations on the state of the prisons, Mrs. Fry embodied in a letter addressed to the Prefect of Police, but as it contained little beyond her opinions so frequently stated, as to arrangements, classification, female officers for women, and instruction, it is not inserted here.

She also addressed a memorial to the King, touching on the subject that so deeply occupied her thoughts, but beyond every other thing, urging a more extended circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and their free use in all public institutions in France.

From a little sketch of her time at Paris, is extracted her own account of her interview with the Orleans' Royal Family, then in the zenith of its greatness, and Louis Philippe, considered throughout Europe, as one of the most sagacious and able monarchs who had ever wielded the sceptre of France.

Our visit to the King and the Queen was interesting ; but alas ! what in reality is rank ? The King I think in person like the late Lord Torrington, the Queen a very agreeable and even interesting woman. I expressed my religious interest and concern for them, which was well received, and we had much conversation with the Queen and the Princess Adelaide, before the King came into the Room. We strongly expressed to the Queen our desire to have the Sabbath better kept, and the Scriptures more read. She is a sweet minded merciful woman. There were present Madame Adelaide, the King's sister, one of the young Princesses, and the Marchioness of Dolomieu, principal Lady of Honour to the Queen.

We then proceeded to the Duchess of Orleans' ; there we had a delightful visit, the sweetest religious communication with her, and other interesting conversation. We found her an uncommon person—my belief is, that she is a very valuable young woman.

The Queen appeared much pleased with my Text-book ; and the Princess Adelaide said, she should keep it in her pocket, and read it daily. Indeed, no books have given the same pleasure as the Text-books, both in French and English. I think we have given away many hundreds of them, and next in number my sister Louisa's books on Education ; they delight the people ;

also a great many of my brother Joseph's Letter to Dr. A——, of which we have a beautiful edition in French, and his Sabbath ; of these we expect to give many hundreds, and one or two other tracts, upon Christian Duties, and the Offices of the Holy Spirit. Our various books and tracts have had a very open reception, but we have been very careful when, where, and what to give ; although in some of the newspapers it was stated that I distributed controversial tracts, which is not true.

At Rouen they met with one of those instances of devotedness to the belief of duty, from time to time to be found so remarkably developed in the female character ; a respectable woman in humble life, who had lived nurse fifteen years in a gentleman's family, a Roman Catholic, but his wife a Protestant. There she had been so much impressed by religious truth (though still a Roman Catholic herself) that she felt it her duty where she resided to circulate the Scriptures and religious tracts. Her master told them, it was surprising the great influence she had obtained in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Fry supplied her with six Testaments and a Bible, from the Bible Society Dépôt. From the same Society she obtained Testaments for the school in the prison, where the Testament was habitually read, but the supply very inadequate. This school was under the care of the Abbé Gossier, M. du Hamel, and other religious gentlemen, who themselves daily instructed the young prisoners.

At Caen, they found some excellent and devoted Methodists amongst the French, and, that through the efforts of one young English lady, an orphan, residing

in a gentleman's family as governess, many copies of the Scriptures had been purchased ; and at the shop of a Roman Catholic, more than a hundred of De Sacy's Testaments sold since the beginning of the year.

The Prison of Beaulieu, near Caen, they visited with much satisfaction—nearly a thousand prisoners were confined there : they found it admirably regulated, and a serious Roman Catholic clergyman devoted to the good of those under his care. He gladly welcomed the gift of fifty Testaments.

At Hàvre, the Ladies' Bible Society had sold, during the former year, four hundred and twenty-six Testaments, and thirty-three Bibles ; and had given to soldiers fifty Testaments, who were in the habit every evening of reading them to their comrades in barracks.

At Boulogne, they made arrangements for the sale of the Holy Scriptures, and took a lively interest in the District Society ; thence crossed to Dover, and the following day Mrs. Fry had the comfort of finding herself again with her family at home.

The effect on her mind of this, her first introduction to France, was very powerful. She was greatly attracted by the life and facility of the French character ; in a letter she speaks of them as—"Such a nation—such a numerous and superior people—filling such a place in the world—and Satan appearing in no common degree to be seeking to destroy them ; first, by infidelity and so called philosophy ; secondly, by superstition, and the priesthood rising with fresh power ; thirdly, by an extreme love of the world and its pleasures ; fourthly, by an unsettled, restless, and warlike spirit ; yet, under all

this, a hidden power of good, at work amongst them. Many very extraordinary Christian characters, bright, sober, zealous Roman Catholics and Protestants, education increasing, the Holy Scriptures more read and valued, a general stirring to improve the prisons of France. The Government making fresh regulations for that purpose ; but great fear of the priests prevailing, from the palace downwards ; and they, alas ! resisting all good, wherever or however it may arise."

CHAPTER XVIII.

BIRTH-DAY REFLECTIONS—JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND—VISITS TO FRIENDS, PRISONS, ETC.—SOLITARY SYSTEM—RETURN HOME—RENEWED PROSPECT OF VISITING FRANCE—APPLICATIONS—STURDY BEGGARS—SALE AT CROSBY HALL FOR THE LADIES' BRITISH SOCIETY—DEPARTS FOR THE CONTINENT—PARIS.

ON the 20th May, 1838, the day before her birth-day, Elizabeth Fry says—"To-morrow I am fifty-eight, an advanced period of what I apprehend to be not a very common pilgrimage. I now very earnestly desire and pray that my Lord may guide me continually, cause me to know more of the day of His power, that I may have my will subjected to His will. What He would have me to do, that may I do ; where He would have me to go, there may I go ; what He may call me to suffer for His name's sake, may I be willing to suffer. Further, may He keep me from all false fears and imaginations, and ever preserve me from putting my hand to any work, not called for by Him, even if my fellow-creatures press me into it, as I think some are disposed to do about America. Be pleased to grant these my desires and prayers for Thine own Holy and Blessed name's sake.

On the 12th of July, an event took place in her family, which afforded Mrs. Fry peculiar satisfaction—the

marriage of her fourth son at Frankfort-sur-Maine, to the daughter of her valued friend, Dr. Pinkerton.

But there was another and a very different subject weighing at this time heavily upon her mind, one which she turned again and again before she dare to dismiss it, and then, it was more that other calls of duty appeared immediately required of her, than that she deliberately abandoned the idea. Her Brother Joseph John Gurney was pursuing his labours in America, as a minister of the Gospel; and she doubted, whether it might not be her duty to cross the Atlantic, in order to join him for a time in his visits in the United States, and to accompany him to the West Indies. There were those who thought she ought to go; but, on the other hand, she knew how entirely it would be against, not only the wishes, but the judgment of her own family. She had learned to trust very little to the opinions of any of her fellow-mortals, and these conflicting views only served to bring her in deeper dependence and more entire self-resignation, to the footstool of her great Master to learn His will, that she might fulfil it. Whilst she pondered these things, a strong conviction arose in her heart, that there was a present duty for her to fulfil—once more to visit Friends and their Meetings in North Britain, again to inspect the prisons there, and to communicate with the magistrates and men in authority, whilst the Bill was still pending, which had been brought before the House the preceding Sessions of Parliament, to improve prisons and prison discipline in Scotland.

She laid this concern before her friends, and receiving the assurance of their unity, she left home the 11th of

August, with her constant companion, her sister-in-law Elizabeth Fry, and her husband's old and valued friend John Sanderson. They stayed a night at Birmingham, and on the 14th of August, arrived at Glen Rothay, in the vale of Rydal, where the kindest reception awaited them ; but the kindness of their host and hostess ceased not here. Elizabeth Fry's onerous and multiplied objects requiring more assistance, William Ball, a minister amongst Friends, though not at the time travelling in that character, and peculiarly suited for the undertaking, was prepared, upon her particular request, to leave that beautiful home and accompany them on their way. They left Glen Rothay on the 15th, Mrs. Ball going with them the two first stages.

As Mrs. Fry's occupation and great fatigue made it almost impossible for her to write fully to her home party, or to keep a journal of their proceedings, Mr. Ball undertook both offices. He had never travelled with, or known her so intimately before, and his journal is interspersed with observations on her objects and habits. From it, the account of this journey is chiefly taken.

After passing through Carlisle and Hawick, Mr. Ball tells of their approaching Edinburgh through "fine and striking country." From Edinburgh they passed on through Perth towards Aberdeen ; "but the free course of interesting and profitable conversation on the part of our beloved friend, the chief charm of a charming journey. How instructive is her regard to the comfort and the feelings of others, even in little things !"

After again speaking of the enjoyment of travelling, he says :—

“ These journeys are, I trust, not lost time ; we have two Scripture readings daily in the carriage, and much instructive conversation ; also, abundant time for that which is so important, the private reading of the Holy Scripture. This is very precious to dear Elizabeth Fry, and I have thought it a privilege to note her reverent ‘ marking and learning ’ of these sacred truths of divine inspiration. Often does she lay down the Book, close her eyes, and wait upon Him, who hath the key of David to open and to seal the instruction of the sacred page. Truly, it helps to explain how her ‘ profiting appears unto all,’ when she is thus diligent and fervent, in ‘ meditating upon these things, and giving herself wholly to them.’ ”

The first two days at Aberdeen were devoted to attending the Meetings, and visits to Friends. Amongst others, one to a very old and valued friend, John Wigham. He had been to her as “ a nursing father ” in the early part of her religious course.

“ It was much like the meeting and interchange of parent and child, after long separation and many vicissitudes ; and these last, as they had affected our dear friend in the interval, were freely spoken of by her, with that deep feeling, chastened into resignation, which so remarkably covers her subjected spirit, in relation to these affecting topics.”

After a great breakfast, given at the house of Principal Jack of Old Aberdeen College, the prison was visited, accompanied by the magistrates and official persons. The condition of the gaol she fancied wonderfully amended.

Mr. Ball thus describes the gathering in the evening:—

“ A meeting with the ladies of Aberdeen this evening at our Hotel, when prison matters were discussed, and things put in train for forming a regular association, ere we leave the city. Elizabeth Fry’s capacity for various successive engagements, all of an important nature, is astonishing. Surely, it is because she dwells mentally in the ‘quiet habitation,’ to which she continually resorts, for the renewal of that calming influence of the Spirit, which purifies the heart, clears the understanding, and rectifies the judgment, bestowing upon the truly devoted follower of the Lamb, ‘the spirit of love and of power, and of a sound mind.’ She is both lovely and wonderful on close acquaintance; such energy, combined with meekness, and so much power with entire teachableness, are rarely found.”

The usual routine went on, striving to stir up the good of all, and enlist them according to their circumstances or ability, in some work of usefulness or Christian love. A Ladies’ Society was formed for visiting the prisons—the Countess of Erroll, President; the Lady Provost, Patroness. The Bridewell was also thoroughly inspected by Mrs. Fry. She found much there to approve and admire; but the want of female officers for the women prisoners, and of an efficient matron, was greatly to be deplored; and she strongly urged the adoption of both these measures on the proper authorities.

From Aberdeen, Mrs. Fry and her companions went to Rennie Hill, and remained for three days with Mr. Johnston and her niece. A large party of magistrates,

lairds, and their ladies, met on Saturday at Rennie Hill, when prison subjects were discussed. The history of the Sunday must be told in Mr. Ball's own words :—

“ *First-day, 26th.*—Our little party sat together after the manner of Friends this morning. Dear Priscilla Johnston joined us. I felt afresh, that it is a privilege to know that the worship of God is in spirit and in truth ; and may be rendered acceptable, wherever contrite hearts are reverently turned toward Him, in dependence on the mediation of His beloved Son, who is ever near to those, if only ‘two or three,’ who are met to offer this worship in His name.”

“ Elizabeth Fry and her sister had desired to meet with the fishermen about Anstruther this evening ; but we were all taken by surprise on going down to the town, to find that this simple, religious gathering, turned out to be a very large and crowded Meeting. The room we had arranged for, not having proved nearly capable of containing the people, they had flocked to a chapel near, the service of which, (and of some others, I believe,) was put off to give place for a Public Meeting of Friends. We had expected to sit down with the poor fishermen in a much more private way. John Sanderson stated to the assemblage, that we began with a pause of silence. Then Elizabeth Fry explained our views on worship, rather in the way of an affectionate introductory address. Her sister E. Fry bent the knee in prayer. After which, Elizabeth Fry was strengthened, in a very striking manner, to proclaim the glad tidings of the gospel of life and salvation—truly an awakening ministry ! Her sister followed, enlarging on the nature and fruits of

true repentance!—then Elizabeth Fry addressed the sea-faring men, most appropriately and feelingly, warned the sinners emphatically, and was afterwards engaged in fervent prayer. At the close of this memorable Meeting, Andrew Johnston briefly addressed this large assembly of his neighbours, acknowledging the kindness of the minister and attention of the people, and enforcing, with great seriousness, his desire, that the novelty of the occasion might in no degree be suffered to divert solemn attention, from the infinite importance of the Gospel truths delivered.”

At Edinburgh the same work began again, and the state of prisons was closely investigated. Mrs. Fry found, as at Aberdeen, great improvements; but there were still points, which, as she believed, were open to improvement. She was extremely anxious at the extent to which Penal Discipline was carried at this time in Scotland, especially the enforcement of solitary confinement. She considered it incumbent on her to make an appeal against its possible abuses.

For this purpose, she invited a large number of influential gentlemen, whose attention had been given to the subject, magistrates, lawyers, members of the Prison Discipline Society, and others, to meet her on this occasion—an appalling audience—as they sat around her, to the number of fifty. She quietly engaged in conversation with some who were seated at the most distant part of the room, and, by degrees, fell into an account of her experience, and a full exposition of her mind on the subject.

As an abstract principle, she doubted the right of man

to place a fellow-creature under circumstances of such misery, if his offences were not of a very heinous or aggravated nature. She could not believe that it was accordant with reason or religion, thus to isolate a being, intended by his great Creator for social life, unless necessary for the safety of the community at large ; nor did she consider continual solitude as the best method of reforming the offender. Very many hours, she thought, might be passed alone with advantage, and the night always ; but she recognised a vast difference between time for reflection, and the imagination being left to dwell upon past guilt or prospective evil. Confinement, that secluded from the vicious, but allowed of frequent intercourse with sober and well-conducted persons, would have been in her view perfect.

Some intercourse, for a few hours daily, among prisoners carefully classed, diligently employed, judiciously instructed, and under most vigilant and unceasing superintendence, with the remaining hours of the twenty-four passed in separate, but not gloomy seclusion, was, in her opinion, the best and the most likely method of benefiting the criminal, and thus eventually diminishing crime. She shrank from the abuses to which the solitary system is liable. How soon might the cell become an oubliette ; how short the transition from kind and constant attention, to cruelty and neglect ; how entirely the comfort, nay, the existence of a prisoner, must depend upon his keeper's will ; and what was human nature, to be trusted with such responsibility ? With an active magistracy, a zealous clergyman, and careful medical attendant, all might be well ; but who could ensure the continuance of

these advantages, were the activity and benevolence of the present day to pass away, and the slumber of indifference again cover the land. Nor was this her only fear—"They may be building, though they little think it, dungeons for their children and their children's children, if times of religious persecution or political disturbance should return." Cell within cell, as in some prisons, in others the light and air of heaven admitted through a crooked funnel, but the glorious sun shut from their eyes; with no sound to reach them, and—but a keeper withdrawn, or a wire broken,—no sound to be heard *from* them, however deep the need of assistance.

Similar engagements, aided as at Edinburgh by her faithful friends and most efficient helpers, Mrs. and Miss Mackenzie, awaited her at Glasgow. One day was spent in like manner at Greenock. A hasty visit was paid to the prison at Paisley, the magistrates meeting her, and paying her every attention. How entirely these gentlemen were earnest in seeking her counsel, was proved, when a few months later, a local newspaper was sent to her, containing the following paragraph:—

"*Prison Reform.*—On Tuesday, the 1st, Janet Stewart of Glasgow was unanimously appointed by a committee of the Commissioners, Matron of the Paisley gaol and Bridewell. The duties of this office are new in the prisons of Scotland. The object of the appointment is, to put the whole of the female prisoners exclusively under the charge of one of their own sex, who is to perform the duties over them of teacher, turnkey, gaoler, &c. In fact, they are not to be seen by any other person but the female keeper, unless it be by persons visiting the

establishment, and as far as possible these visitors are to be exclusively females also. It was at the suggestion of Mrs. Fry, at her late visit, that this plan of appointing an instructress and keeper for the females of their own sex, who should be constantly beside them, was adopted; and we have the pleasure of adding, that several of the other improvements which were then in contemplation, and which had been recommended by that lady and the Government Inspector, Mr. Hill, have now been carried into effect."

From Glasgow by Carlisle, Penrith, and Patterdale, where meetings for worship were held, this united little band travelled on, till again at Glen Rothay. There, they passed a day of rest and refreshment. With Mr. Ball's account of it must close the extracts from his narrative.

"15th.—A day of unwonted quiet. After writing and such restful avocations were done, Elizabeth Fry enjoyed a ramble into the mountain air of Loughrigg Fell, though she did not reach the summit. Amidst many secret exercises of soul, and so much laborious exertion for the temporal as well as spiritual good of others, our dear friend largely shares in the sweet experience that 'He giveth all things richly to enjoy.' Her love of nature, from the mountain to the field-flower, is signal; and admirably preserved through atmospheres unfavourable, in general, to the maintenance of a taste for simple and retired pleasures. Yet, where the love of religious retirement is in lively exercise, probably such a taste is less endangered; it harmonizes with that frame of spirit, which seeks the valley where the dew remains.

Precious indeed, is a child-like and watchful spirit, submissively eyeing the chief Shepherd, and waiting His leading."

They attended some meetings appointed for them, in Westmoreland and Lancashire. Mr. Ball accompanied them as far as Liverpool; from whence Mrs. Fry and her sister returned immediately home. There for a time she remained amongst her own family and friends, her home, objects, and interests, easy and pleasant to her. Not so the claims and applications from without; these were almost innumerable; many of a character wholly beyond her power to entertain or assist. Numerous persons would come to Upton from London, some needing money, others wanting her interest to obtain public or private situations for which frequently they were utterly unfitted; there were individuals who could scarcely be persuaded to take a refusal. This affected the comfort of her family, as well as her own. The party consisted of only Mr. Fry and herself, their eldest daughter and youngest son, and induced them more readily to entertain the idea of uniting with her in a lengthened journey on the Continent, whither she believed it would be ere long her duty again to go, to visit some places where she had never been, and to strengthen her labours of love in those parts, which she had already visited. By the Society of Friends, she was encouraged in this undertaking, and arrangements were made for leaving England in the early Spring. But there was one subject of anxiety pressing on her mind which she greatly desired to have set at rest before her departure—the low state of the funds of the British Ladies' Prison Society.

Money was not only wanted in carrying on the prison visiting, to furnish employment in many cases, and to supply books and little rewards, as encouragements for good behaviour ; but there were also to be assisted the valuable Refuges that had been established ; one for little girls, at Chelsea, and another for young women, at Manor Hall, in the same place. There were, besides these demands, heavy and continual calls upon their funds, to meet the melancholy cases of liberated prisoners, or accused but destitute females, who could not be received into either of these institutions. A sub-committee had been formed, under the name of the Patronage Committee, and at this time was actively at work, to assist such cases : once a-week the ladies met (and continue to meet) to receive applications. Fearful details of misery and guilt are constantly brought before them ; frequently may be seen a prison officer with some poor creature in her custody (or voluntarily under her care), come to implore shelter and opportunity of existence, without living in sin. Besides this, the convict ships continued to be a heavy demand upon the funds of the British Society. Some expedient to meet these emergencies was become essential. Mrs. Fry had no taste for Bazaars and Repositories ; but, conducted in a sober quiet manner, she did not believe them wrong ; under these circumstances, therefore, and after full consultation with her friends and coadjutors, she determined upon having a sale for this purpose.

There is an ancient building in the City of London, called Crosby Hall, still beautiful, though fallen into decay. It had become the property of a lady, desirous

of restoring it ; she had already begun the work, and willingly granted the use of it, as a means of carrying on some of the repairs. A few days, however, before the sale was to take place, the needful preparations were found not even commenced. Two rooms, formerly part of the ancient palace, absolutely necessary on this occasion, were still a ruin. Skilful workmen were called in—a magical change passed over the scene, the worm-eaten timbers were covered and floored, the arched windows, through which the wind had howled, and the rain beaten, three days before, were glazed, and where cobweb waved upon ruined walls, hangings were suspended, with, at intervals, armorial bearings to enliven the whole. By the day of sale, all things were ready to receive the public.

The sale was conducted to her satisfaction, and above a thousand pounds realized for the objects she had in view.

Then she prepared in earnest for her foreign journey. Josiah Forster, an “elder” amongst Friends, an estimable person, and one eminently suited for it, accompanied Mrs. Fry and her party, to assist her in her various objects. They arrived at Boulogne, March the 12th, 1839. Scarcely had she reached the Hotel, when so many came to see her, that she could hardly find time to breakfast, or to change her dress. She visited the prison, which was in a deplorable condition, and in the evening received a large party at the Hotel, mostly consisting of the ladies of a little District Society she had been instrumental in forming on her previous visit. The results of their labours were very satisfactory ; many of

the poor French were subscribing for, or buying New Testaments, as well as eagerly reading the tracts circulated amongst them. The state of the resident English poor was also considered as decidedly improved, through this means.

On retiring to her room at night, Mrs. Fry's maid could not refrain the expression of her astonishment at the eagerness of the servants of the Hotel for Testaments—"The people here are craving Testaments, Ma'am." It appeared that they lent them to their friends, who carried them into the country, where they were so eagerly read and re-read, that it was difficult for the rightful owners to regain possession of them.

On the 14th, en route to Abbeville, the party stopped at Samer for an hour, to give Mrs. Fry the opportunity of visiting a poor sick Englishman in great affliction. At Montreuil-sur-Mer, she gave a tract to a man whilst changing horses, the carriage was soon surrounded by people begging for books; it was curious to see their energy to obtain them. The same thing occurred at the Hotel at Abbeville, where those, to whom she had given them on her previous visit, begged for more, and came creeping up to her apartment to prefer their request. Her Text-books, "*Les petits livres de matin*," were the decided favourites. In the morning, the people of the Hotel again gathered round her. The Sunday she had spent there on her former visit to Paris—the reading they had in the evening—the prayer she offered for them, had made a deep impression. They beguiled her into the kitchen, where she told them in broken French, which however they contrived to understand, a little of

her wishes for them as to faith and practice. Then all would shake hands with her, to the portly "chef de cuisine," before allowing her to go.

Mrs. Fry's reception at Paris, was gracefully affectionate—"Loved for her work's sake!" Who, like the French for those indefinable attentions which go so far to adorn and poetize life? Beautiful flowers decked their saloon, with many and varied tokens of caring for her health and comfort. But human love, and human approval, however precious and genial to her nature, sufficed her not. Earnest were her prayers for guidance, and that the "Lord Himself might bless, prosper, and increase her unworthy labours; that "a patient, quiet, and trustful spirit," might be given her, only dependent upon the fresh pourings forth of His spirit, and the incomings of His love."

The same friends gathered round her, the same institutions were revisited, with some others which she had not seen before; the same objects of interest occupied her attention. The mornings were thus spent; the evenings generally at the houses of their many kind friends, or in receiving guests at the Hotel. No one was more capable than Mrs. Fry of appreciating the enjoyment of social intercourse or society, such as these occasions afforded, but it was not from this motive she united in them. She considered it her duty to avail herself of the opportunities thus afforded, for the diffusion of knowledge on those subjects which had brought her to Paris, and the introduction of topics of a philanthropic and religious character.

Mrs. Fry had not before visited the hospitals gene-

rally ; now she did so, accompanied by the Baron de Gerando. The enlarged religion and benevolence of this excellent old man was delightful to her : his being a member of the Roman Catholic Church in no way preventing their Christian unity. He was endeavouring to found a Penitentiary or Magdalen, in Paris ; but complained that people are so easily influenced through their senses, that it was comparatively easy to induce them to feed the starving, clothe the naked, and administer to the sick ; whilst moral reforms, the benefit of which are less immediately obvious, but of such infinitely greater importance, are too often neglected.

The first visit was to the Hospital of the Hotel Dieu, a vast pile built on either side of one of the branches of the Seine, over which is a communication by a covered bridge. It is an extremely ancient foundation, and contains one thousand two hundred and sixty beds, of which a hundred or a hundred and fifty, are placed in each of the immense wards. These, notwithstanding their size and the cleanliness of the beds, linen, and floors, were offensively close. The mortality in this hospital is at all times great ; partly to be attributed to the severity of the accidents and other cases brought to the Hotel Dieu, but even more to the defective ventilation. This is proved by the singular fact, that the greatest number of deaths occur on the third or highest story, less on the second, and the fewest on the ground-floor.

This hospital is under the care of a lay director, and nuns of the order of St. Augustin ; there are forty of them divided between the Hotel Dieu and the Hospital of St. Louis.

The Superior spoke feelingly of the trials to which they were exposed, in fulfilling their arduous and distasteful labours ; that only as a duty to God could they endure it. The nuns appeared very kind to the poor creatures under their care, but take no part in ministering to their mental necessities and religious state.

The following day, accompanied by the Baron de Gerando and M. Valderuche, Mrs. Fry visited the Hospital of St. Louis, founded by Henri IV, for plague, leprosy, and other contagious complaints. It was entirely built in his time, and contains all that was then considered necessary to prevent or check contagion ; it is now used for cases of cutaneous disease. The Hospital of St. Louis is a noble pile of buildings placed amongst gardens, in the outskirts of the town. It encloses within itself, five large courts laid out in gardens ; the wards each containing as many beds as those in the Hotel Dieu, but being lofty, vaulted, and with the finest ventilation from a double tier of almost unnumbered windows, they were perfectly fresh and pleasant. The nuns said the rate of mortality was very small.

A poor English maid-servant was amongst the sufferers ; she had been there for months, having been left by an English family with whom she had been travelling. She spoke of the kindness she had received in the Hospital as great. Her heart bounded at the sound of her native tongue ; nor was she left without arrangements for her future comfort.

The establishment of baths of various descriptions is very complete, and available for out-door as well as house patients. The appearance of the hospital was high-

ly gratifying as to every outward arrangement, but not so as to any opportunity for moral and religious improvement. Before quitting the establishment, Mrs. Fry asked to see the Chaplain (L'Aumônier.) After some general discourse on the state of the institution, she addressed him on the subject of her concern for the souls of these poor people ; the reply was, " Nous avons les sacremens de l'Eglise," which closed the conversation ; the priest accepting a Text Book, and parting from his visitors in a friendly manner.

Two days afterwards, the same party went to the Hospital des Enfants Trouvés. This monument of St. Vincent de Paul is an affecting sight, from the miserable state of the wretched infants, and the fearful mortality that prevails among them. Their sufferings must be greatly increased by the unnatural practice of swaddling, from which thralldom, they are only unloosed, for any purpose, once in twelve hours ; the sound in the ward Mrs. Fry compared to the bleating, faint and pitiful, of a flock of young lambs. A lady who not unfrequently visited the institution said, that she never remembered examining the long array of clean white cots that lined the walls, without finding one or more dead. In front of the fire was a sloping stage, on which was a mattress, and a row of these little creatures placed upon it to warm, and await their turn to be fed from the spoon by a nurse. After much persuasion, one that was crying piteously, was released from its swaddling bands ; it stretched its little limbs, and ceased its wailings. Mrs. Fry pleaded so hard for them with the Superior, that their arms have since been released. The Sisters of

Charity professed to be desirous of doing justice to the children ; but the conduct of the whole institution wanted vigour, and deliverance from the prejudices which thus consigns infancy to suffering and untimely death.

The medical attendants were alive to the defects of the management, but professed themselves unable to effect any change in the old-established usages of the place. These appeared to Mrs. Fry and her party to be almost confounded in the minds of the Sisters with the regulations of their religious order ; at all events, if not belonging to it, very naturally arising from the “*invincible immobilité*” of monachism, as a strict Roman Catholic, but a keen observer, once said to Mrs. Fry.

If these infants survive the first few days, they are sent into the country to be nursed. There is also a sort of Orphan Asylum attached to the *Enfants Trouvés* for children of all ages ; but they are seldom there a month before removal into the country, to be brought up by the ignorant peasants to whom they are consigned.

Mrs. Fry saw at a glance, how vast an opportunity of national good was here lost ; multitudes of children belonging to the State, and ignorant of any other parentage, would if properly trained and educated on scriptural principles, act as a leaven amongst the mass to raise the tone of good feeling and principle, and increase the attachment of the lower classes to their country and its institutions.

From the *Enfants Trouvés* they proceeded to the *Hospice de la Maternité* ; this building, so full of recollections—now so changed ! was once the *Porte Royale* of Paris. The cells used for the patients still retain their

cellular divisions, so that complete privacy is enjoyed by each poor woman, with all the convenience of wards. Mrs. Fry thought this the best Lying-in Hospital she had ever seen ; the Matron and the Superintendent appeared enlightened and intelligent, the whole condition of the place vigorous and sound. It is entirely under secular care. In this, as in all the other Paris hospitals, no tickets of admission are required ; a person has only to prove herself poor and ill, to be admitted as a patient.

The Friends' week-day meeting proved a very solemn one, it was attended by numbers of persons. Her ministry on this occasion was wonderful, and chiefly addressed to the afflicted, and found an echo in many hearts. She afterwards called on Madame Guizot, mother of the Minister ; a charming old lady, eighty years of age, taking charge of her three little grandchildren.

Mrs. Fry again visited the St. Lazare prison. She found some improvements effected, and female officers introduced. Many of the prisoners knew her again, and seemed delighted to see her. In one ward (Salle) they told her that since her last visit, they had thought and talked so much of religion, that they had subscribed to purchase "Celle-la" pointing to an image of the Virgin placed against the wall.

The St. Lazare Prison is only for women, and often contains 1200 at one time ; to it is attached a sort of compulsory Lock hospital.

She also saw La Roquette, or the prison for "Les Jeunes Détenus," a very fine establishment for boys. By the laws of France, a boy is not held responsible for his actions under sixteen years of age, and therefore, if

he commits a crime, he is detained and confined, but not sentenced. Fathers, in France, have the power of confining sons under this age.

La Roquette is built upon the plan of a prison, and contains between five and six hundred inmates ; there is a regular school for their instruction, in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Several of the classes were reading the New Testament (De Sacy's translation). Each boy has a copy, and they may have the book to read, if they wish it, in their hours of recreation. There are various workshops, where they learn trades. Of their earnings they receive one-third at the time, one-third when they leave the prison, the remaining third goes to the establishment. They have no other punishment than solitary confinement. The boys under "*correction paternelle*," were in cells, where their education was carried vigorously forward, according to their rank in life ; no other difference is permitted ; the same little bed, table, chair, and shelves, in each, and the same diet and costume. It was to Mrs. Fry's feelings a highly interesting and satisfactory establishment. Not so the prison of La Force, into which she ventured, and saw six hundred untried persons crowded together, in a state of total idleness, vice, and neglect, without even on Sundays, or fête days, the service of the Roman Catholic Church being performed.

About this time Mr. and Mrs. Fry were joined by others of their children ; to them it was highly interesting for once to be permitted to witness and partake in scenes, incident to their beloved mother's labours in the cause of religion and benevolence. One day there was

a large dinner at the house of her faithful friends the Mallet family. Another evening above one hundred persons were assembled at their Hotel, Greeks, Ionians, Spaniards, a Pole, Italians, Germans, English, Americans and French. A sketch by herself of their last week's engagements at Paris concludes the narrative.

Paris, Fourth Month, 21st.—I feel that, under a lively sense of peace and rest of soul, I may record the mercies of the Lord this last week.

Our First-day was very satisfactory ; a large Meeting, five of our children with us. I now mention the events of the week without stating the days.

I had a very serious, interesting, and intimate conversation with the Duchess of Orleans.

I visited and attended to some prisons, formed a Ladies' Society to visit the Protestants in prisons and hospitals, met a very influential company at dinner at Lord Granville's, much interesting conversation in the evening ; the same twice at Baron Pelet's, and we had an agreeable dinner at Lord William Bentinck's. I have paid some very interesting private calls, spent one morning with my children ; our great philanthropic evening largely attended, about a hundred and forty present. Josiah Forster gave a concentrated account of our former evenings, and added other things very agreeably. I strongly impressed upon them, the extreme importance of the influence of the higher, on the lower classes of society, by their example and precept ; mentioned late hours, theatres, and other evils. Then advised, giving the poor Christian education, reading the Holy Scriptures in their families, lending Libraries, District Societies,

and other objects. We finished with a very solemn Scripture reading, the greater part of the third chapter of Colossians, and 20th and 21st verses of the last chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews, "Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Previous to reading this, I had expressed some solemn parting truths, and our party broke up in much love and peace.

May the Lord of the harvest Himself cause that some of these may be gathered into His garner ; and may He bless, prosper, and increase the seed so unworthily scattered !

On Fifth-day, we dined with some sweet, spiritual, and delightful people, the de Pressensés and de Valcours ; in the evening to Mark Wilks's, to meet a very large party of ministers from different parts of France, come to attend the Meetings of the various Societies.

Fontainbleau, 28th.—The day before our departure from Paris we visited the *Prefét de Police*, took in our report of the state of the prisons, and obtained leave for the Protestant ladies to visit the Protestant prisoners ; we had much interesting conversation. We have the great satisfaction of hearing, that a law is likely to pass for women prisoners, throughout France, to be under the care of women.

In the evening and during the day, numbers came to

take leave of us ; a good many Greeks, who appeared to feel much interest in and for us, as if our labours with them had not been in vain.

On parting with my beloved children (to return to England), I could not refrain from many tears. Our beloved friend Emilie Mallet joined us very early in the morning, also our kind friend John Sargent, our friend de Béranger, and one or two others. My soul was particularly humbled within me, and, before parting we assembled with our friends, and poured forth deep prayer and thanksgiving unto the Lord. Thanks for the help granted to us, and for the kindness shown us by our Christian friends, and the love and unity we have partaken of with them ; prayer that our labours might be blessed, and the seed scattered, prospered and increased, and that no reproach might have been brought by us upon the cause nearest to my heart ; earnestly did I ask a blessing upon our friends, ourselves, the tenderly beloved ones just parted from, and those at home. After this we took an affectionate leave of all, including our host, hostess, and the hotel servants.

CHAPTER XIX.

LYONS—AVIGNON—NISMES ; CONGENIES, TARRIANCE THERE — MAR-
SEILLES—TOULON—AIX—MONTPELLIER—TOULOUSE.

MRS. FRY and her party left Paris on the 27th of April. She was furnished with a letter from the Minister of the Interior, granting her, Mr. Forster, and her husband, permission to visit all the prisons in France. This document was first made use of at Melun, and on this occasion, as on every succeeding one, Mrs. Fry was received with respect, and every facility afforded her and her party, for inspecting the prisons.

The prison at Melun contained upwards of a thousand men, thirty of whom were Protestants, and visited by their own minister, who supplied them with copies of the Scriptures ; but on inquiring of the Chaplain (l'Aumônier) whether the Roman Catholics were allowed to possess the Bible, he evaded the question, by replying, " They have religious books."

An accident to the carriage detained them for the night at Auxerre. Mrs. Fry went to the prison, where she found that a benevolent woman in humble circumstances, had for many years daily visited and read to the prisoners, and still persevered in her work with vigour, although eighty years of age. At Chalons-sur-

Soane, the evening was occupied by a visit to an hospital under the care of nuns, which had the effect of comfort greater than ordinary ; the beds having clean white curtains, and each patient a little table by his side.

The next morning, embarking on the Soane before six in the morning, they had a delightful voyage to Lyons, with the mountainous districts of Auvergne, and the Puis-de-Dome in full view. The change of climate in steaming so rapidly southwards was very remarkable—it was spring in the morning at Chalons, at Lyons in the afternoon it was summer. Many tracts were distributed among the passengers on board the boat ; some refused them, some returned them ; but one man not only kept the “ Letter on the Evidences of Christianity ” by J. J. Gurney, but insisted on Josiah Forster’s acceptance of his wine-flask, an ancient and grotesque specimen of china, which the donor considered of Sevre manufacture, and upwards of two hundred years old. There did not appear to be the same desire for books as in the North of France ; probably from so few of the people being taught to read.

In Lyons, where they arrived on the 4th May, many objects of interest presented themselves. In the prison of La Perrache, they saw a hundred and thirty-two lads under the care of fifteen of the Brethren of St. Joseph.

They also visited the Maison d’Arrêt or la Roanne, where they saw with pleasure, the beneficial effects of women being placed under the care of persons of their own sex ; ten or twelve Sisters of St. Joseph are here devoted to this work. Mrs. Fry expressed a few words through an interpreter, exhorting them to repentance

and faith, and speaking of the joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, which appeared to touch them.

They saw an institution under the care of the same Order of nuns, called La Solitude, where, as in the former instance, they were pleased with the Superior. The women were out for recreation ; the young persons “at a simple dance, for their amusement.” The building commands a very fine view, with extensive garden and orchard attached to it. The inmates, about eighty in number, are either discharged prisoners, or vagrants ; they are employed in washing, spinning, etc. Some were being trained as novices, eventually to enter the Order. The whole effect was neat and orderly. With M. Cordes, the Protestant Pasteur, and many members of his flock, their intercourse was valuable and encouraging.

From Avignon the travellers proceeded to Nismes. The beauties of the journey were keenly enjoyed by Mrs. Fry ; she says in a letter to her children :—

“ We have passed through the most delightful country I ever saw. Lyons, with the Rhone and Soane, is in its environs beautiful, and the passage from Lyons to Avignon really lovely ; mountains in the distance (parts of the Alps) their tops covered with snow ; vegetation in perfection, the flowers of spring and summer in bloom at once, grass just ready to be cut, barley in the ear, lilacs, laburnams, syringas, roses, pinks, carnations, acacias in full bloom, yellow jessamine wild in the hedges. It is a sudden burst of the finest summer, combined with the freshness of spring. The olive groves, intermixed with abundant vineyards and mulberry groves, all beauti-

ful from their freshness. The ancient buildings of Avignon, the ruins on the banks of the Rhone, the very fine and wonderful Roman remains of the aqueduct, called the Pont du Gard, really exceed description. This place also abounds in curious buildings. Here, or in the neighbourhood, we expect to remain some time."

Nismes is perhaps more the centre of Protestantism, than any other place in France. There Mrs. Fry made a longer tarriance than usual. There exists at Nismes and in the neighbouring villages, a scattered body of people professing the principles of the Society of Friends. She and Mr. Forster visited with much interest all who resided at Nismes, and attended their Meetings. This simple, but interesting body of people are the descendants of the Camisards, who took refuge in the mountains of the Cevennes, and fought valiantly for their faith, during the persecutions subsequent to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The Camisards were of the old stock of the Albigenses. The continual loss or imprisonment of their ministers induced their ministering one to the other. At the cessation of hostilities, many of them persevered in a system, which, in the first instance, had resulted from circumstances. Towards the close of the last century, a man, named Paul Codognan, formed the project of giving a positive form to the belief and customs of this his little community, and prepared a work, though very imperfectly, on the subject. It was taken by one of the body to Holland, to be printed, and there he heard, for the first time, that in England and America there existed a people, who entertained many of the same opinions as himself.

He proceeded to England, and became acquainted with the Society of Friends, to whom the existence of this little body of fellow-believers was thus made known. Since that period, but more especially of late years, the community at Congenies has become an object of much interest to Friends in England, and has been visited from time to time by ministers and other members of that Society.

The Protestant pastor at Nismes, M. Frossard, with his lady, proved wonderful helpers to Elizabeth Fry, such excellent interpreters—such true sympathizers! Much kind attention was paid them by Dr. Pleindoux, who entertained them sumptuously, in his kindness of heart thus marking his welcome. After dinner, a still better entertainment awaited them, in interesting, important, and edifying conversation, amongst a large party of excellent persons. Mrs. Fry took a lively interest in the great Maison Centrale at Nismes, containing about one thousand two hundred prisoners. It is built on the site of the old citadel, from which, in the time of Louis XIV., the Protestants were attacked whilst holding their assemblies for divine worship. In her first visit, besides Mr. Forster, Mrs. Fry was accompanied by M. Frossard, the Protestant chaplain, and M. Castelnau, the Surgeon of the prison. The men were employed in vast workshops, where absolute silence was maintained. In passing through two or three of these, she expressed her interest for the prisoners, her pity for them, and her desire for their repentance and amendment of life. She particularly desired to see the Cachots. In the first were eight men, placed there as a punish-

ment for exacting usury of their fellow-prisoners ; for instance, lending them a franc when they came out of the infirmary, or when, from any other cause they were without money, and receiving eight sous weekly as interest. This practice had existed to a great extent, and is one of the many evils resulting from the cantine system. These men were discontented and clamorous, their appearance fierce and depraved. Five armed soldiers were introduced into the cell with the visitors, to protect them from their violence. In the second cell, were eighteen men without employment. Into this, the visitors requested to be admitted alone. In the third, which was entirely dark, were two placed for refractory conduct ; one was chained both hands and feet. Mrs. Fry said to them, that she had sometimes when she had seen men thus circumstanced pleaded for their liberation, on the promise of future good behaviour, if she believed their promise to be sincere. The fettered prisoner immediately volunteered this promise, and was promptly released.

In this prison, besides the Roman Catholic chapel served by the Aumônier, who resides in the prison, there is a Protestant chapel, in which daily service is performed by a pastor of that faith. This is attended by any prisoner who desires it ; besides the professed Protestants, about a hundred among the Roman Catholics, from preference, worshipped there. On occasion of Mrs. Fry's second visit, she was accompanied by her family party, as well as some of her particular friends ; the object being to attend the religious service of the Protestant prisoners. The chapel was small, and the mid-

dle filled by depraved-looking men in their rough prison dress. At the top, in a semicircle, sat the party of ladies and gentlemen, six or eight in number, with the Governor (Directeur) and Protestant Chaplain. At the bottom of the room, and around the door, clustered the gens-d'armes and gardiens (turnkeys) in their smart, soldier-like costume, to the number of ten or fifteen. The service commenced with singing a hymn. Then M. Frossard read beautifully the 24th Psalm ; after which, Elizabeth Fry spoke to the audience in one of her most impressive strains—translated for her by M. Frossard, with such spirit and force, that it hardly lost in the change of language. She began in the most touching tone of voice, on the conversion of poor Mary Magdalene, her loving much because forgiven much, her washing her Lord's feet, her being with Him at His death, watching at His tomb, and permitted first to see Him after His resurrection. It was the strongest encouragement to the repentant sinner. She then turned and spoke in a strain of awful entreaty and solemn warning to the hardened and profane. The listening expression of all countenances showed how deeply her words impressed them. Many tears were shed ; and she heard afterwards, that among these hardened men, instances of real repentance and amendment of life had occurred. On leaving the chapel and crossing a corridor, a gen-d'armes brought two men out of a workroom to Mrs. Fry ; they began to speak eagerly to her ; one told her that he should never lie down in his bed without praying for and blessing her, whilst the other echoed the sentiment. They were the two men for whom, on her previous visit,

she had interceded, that they might be liberated from the dungeon.

After that, she again visited the cells, accompanied by M. Frossard and a venerable grey-headed pasteur, one of the fathers of the French Protestant Church. They went without guard. The visit was interesting and satisfactory, and ended in a condign apology being offered by the culprits, and forgiveness granted by the governor; though so desperate were these men, that the governor of the prison had thought it prudent, unknown at the time to them or to the prisoners, to place soldiers in concealment near.

A few days afterwards, Mrs. Fry received this letter from one of the prisoners :—

“Nismes, le 19 Mai, 1839.

“TRES HONOREE DAME,

“La visite que vous avez bien voulue faire a de malheureux prisonniers, a été pour beaucoup de nous un grand sujet de consolation. Les paroles, pleines de bienveillance et de bonté que vous nous avez adressées, se sont profondément gravées dans nos cœurs.

“Nous sommes si peu accoutumés à voir des personnes étrangères, et jouissant d’une considération si distinguée, et en même temps, si bien méritée, plaindre notre sort et nous offrir des consolations, que nous regrettons bien vivement de ne pouvoir souvent être honorés de votre visites.

“Ah ! s’il vous était possible, madame, de nous voir encore une fois, et d’assister Dimanche prochain au service divin, vous nous combleriez de joie. Car nous pensons

que vos prières, jointes aux nôtres, ne pourraient manquer d'être agréables à Dieu, et qu'il nous donnerait la force et le courage nécessaires pour imiter notre Sauveur Jésus Christ, qui s'est immolé pour nous en supportant les plus affreux tourmens avec patience, et en priant son Père de pardonner à ceux qui le faisaient mourir.

“ Daignez, honorée Dame,

“ Recevoir mes humbles respects,

“ Vôte très obéissant serviteur,

“ M———.”

Congenies was the next place visited by the travellers ; it is a retired village, to the west of the road from Nismes to Montpellier, about four leagues from the former place. The inhabitants are almost all Friends ; a simple and serious people.

To abandon hotels, towns, and highways, and diverge amongst lanes and cross roads—to spend a fortnight in a country village in France amongst its simple inhabitants, was an event not without interest and amusement. Hampers well stocked with coffee, sugar, candles, &c., were piled upon the carriage, or the attendant van, which was also the Congenies and Cordognan diligence. The country became less and less interesting, although well cultivated, till a group of grey flat roofs in a little hollow amongst the hills, marked the first appearance of Congenies. After passing some distance through the village street, the carriage stopped at the door of a large dull prison-like house, the windows barred with iron, and the door at one side up a flight of eight or ten steps. This was the house prepared for the reception of the tra-

vellers. A hall with no one single article of furniture ; an ante-room containing a buffet, a fire-place, and a couple of chairs ; and a saloon with white curtains to the windows, a table, and some rush-bottomed chairs—all these vaulted, white-washed, and floored with stone, formed the suite of reception rooms.

Other rooms of the same character, communicated with the hall of entrance, from which ascended a dark, wide stone staircase, leading to rambling comfortless chambers. Various needful articles were willingly supplied by the friendly peasants—spoons were lent by one, by another a bed-side carpet for Mrs. Fry. A second table was arranged in the saloon, and after a day or two, a sort of homely comfort prevailed. The finest anchovies from the neighbouring Mediterranean, a cask of olives of the village produce, and sweet wine made expressly at the last year's vintage, had been prepared by these kind people.

The hostess had good store of white household linen, and her kitchen was in high activity, though provisions were uncertain and only to be obtained from Calvisson. The Savoyard waiter, who had accompanied them from Nismes, superintended the cooking. The day's bill of fare, hung by him on a nail in the kitchen, was an inexhaustible source of amusement to the village women, who were perpetually gossiping with the hostess, and watching with curiosity the proceedings of her foreign inmates. There was one peculiarity in this ménage—the usual operations of a scullery being carried on in the entrance hall, where an old woman and girl had established themselves, with a broken-down table and chair,

perpetually flooding the place in the process of cleansing all manner of pots and pans, iron, copper, and earthenware, red, yellow, and green.

The Friends in Congenies and the neighbouring villages, appeared to be a respectable well-conducted body of people. Louis Majolier was a valuable minister amongst them. Accompanied by her friend Josiah Forster, Elizabeth Fry regularly attended their Meeting for worship and discipline. Their Meeting-House was neat, and abundantly adequate to the needs of the congregation; she also visited them all in their families.

The houses were mostly approached by cart-gates under an archway into a court-yard, filled with dust and straw, chickens and rabbits running about it. On one side of this court or yard was the sitting-room, entered through a vine-covered porch, beneath which, the women sat and knitted silk gloves and mittens. An open outside flight of stairs led to the chambers. A stable opposite the entrance, a well in one corner, and a cart under the gateway, completed the style of most of their buildings. These cottagers all possessed abundant supplies of table linen, and in every house where Mrs. Fry dined, however, humble, she found dinner napkins for use. Soup, one or two entrées, a roast of lamb or a fowl, salad and vegetables, composed the dinner.

Although there are no horned cattle, the villagers possess a good many sheep and some goats, which gather a scanty subsistence from the herbage of the rocky hills, where the vine cannot grow. Their milk is excellent, and so is the butter made from it. The flocks are invariably attended by a shepherd and strong dogs, to pro-

tect them from the wolves of the Cevennes mountains ; after watering them at the fountain in stone troughs, a most picturesque sight, they are folded in the village at night. The women Friends wear the peasant cap and costume, but with a graver shade of colouring ; the men the usual peasant's dress of the district. In all the neighbouring villages there was an eager open ear for Gospel truth. The Meeting held at Congenies, on the last Sunday evening of their residence there, was crowded. The people clustered round the open windows, on the wall outside, and even clambered to the tops of the doors, yet with perfect quietude and order. It was the same at Calvisson the following Sunday. There the Meeting was held in the Protestant Temple. The party broke up from Congenies on the 27th, and after again partaking of the abundant hospitality of Dr. Pleindoux, at Nismes, proceeded by the ancient City of Arles to Marseilles.

At Marseilles, Mrs. Fry visited several of the institutions. The first of these was described to her as a refuge for female penitents. It was not without considerable difficulty, that she obtained permission to enter. She was accompanied by a Roman Catholic lady, a stranger to her, who consented to be the medium of her introduction, and was called one of the Directresses. It proved to be a regular convent, under the control of nuns of the strict monastic order of St. Charles, who, in addition to the three ordinary vows, add that of converting souls, and therefore admit poor young women, under the name of "*pénitentes*," into the convent. The Lady Directresses were no longer permitted to see the penitents, or even to enter the building, with the excep-

tion of the one charged with its repairs. She is allowed to see the dilapidations, but not any of the sisters or inmates. Mrs. Fry and her companions were introduced into a large comfortable parlour, plainly furnished ; on one side was a close double grating, painted black, with black shutters behind, extremely gloomy looking. Chairs had been placed for them in front of the grating. After Mrs. Fry and her companions had waited some time, the shutters were opened by the "*Supérieure*," a handsome woman of about thirty years of age. The object of Mrs. Fry's journey was explained to her, which led to a long and interesting conversation, in which the talents of this lovely Abbess were abundantly displayed, and she proved to be thoroughly mistress of her subject. She informed them, that the number of penitents admitted are one hundred and five, that they are not permitted to become nuns in that order, but when the vocation is very strong, they may do so in others ; that more than half are converted ; that most become servants, and if well-behaved, are still cared for by the nuns. None are compelled to enter, or are retained against their will, although encouraged by every means to stay. Some have remained nine years.

They are not taught to read or write ; neither is the least morsel of paper, pencil, pen, ink, or any other possible material for writing permitted, from the fear of their communicating with people without. The day is spent in a perpetual round of work, embroidery, recreation, recitation of prayers, psalms, &c. The nuns were in number forty. They came from Tours, about eighteen months previously, to take charge of this establishment.

Upon Mrs. Fry's speaking of the importance of the Gospel for such persons, the Abbess informed them, that it was in parts read to them, and admitted that the history of Mary Magdalene, the parables of the prodigal son, the piece of silver, and the lost sheep, were fit and good for them ; she added, that she found parts of Isaiah and all the Psalms suited to them. Then, as Roman Catholics are wont to do, she went on to urge the unsuitableness of the Scriptures, as a whole, especially parts of the Old Testament, for people in general. Mrs. Fry spoke of the sufferings of Christ for sinners, and salvation through Him ; all which the nun united in. Indeed, to judge from her report, nothing could be better conducted than this institution.

The Abbess related a long history of one of the *pénitentes*, who had died only an hour before, the " death of an angel and a saint." The narrative is given as nearly as a translation will admit of it, in her own words :—

The young *pénitente* was eighteen years of age, and bent upon leaving the Asylum. The Abbess gave her a month to consider her determination. At the end of this time her wish was unchanged, and the Abbess informed her, that in a week she should go. This week she was made to spend in penances, and prayers to the Virgin, and such was the effect, that she decided to remain in the convent, although she declared that she should surely die if she did so. Shortly afterwards cough and expectoration came on, to which hemorrhage from the lungs succeeded. The very day that Mrs. Fry visited the institution she died. During her last hours she shewed much consideration for others : on the night preceding

her death, she begged the nuns to retire to rest, assuring them, that she should not die till the morrow. She retained her senses and her speech until within five minutes of her end. On the Abbess presenting the crucifix, the sufferer exclaimed—" *Je suis cloué en cœur—je le sens dans mon cœur.*"

Surely this tale is rather plausible than satisfactory. Who that has read the human heart, or traced the history of mankind individually, or in collective bodies, but has detected a love of power, and an abuse of that power when obtained, which renders a system of secrecy and seclusion with absolute authority, an evil liable to terrible abuse. Nuns directed by churchmen! Woman, always extreme for good or ill, guided by superstition; herself a slave, employed to enslave others. If prisoners or penitents are to be committed to the care of monastic orders, justice assuredly demands that these unhappy persons should be never placed beyond the reach of the secular arm.

From this establishment of darkness and mystery, Mrs. Fry went to a very different one, called "La Maison des Orphelines du Choléra." It was under the especial care of the Abbé Fisseaux, an active, intelligent young man, apparently devoted to doing good. The children were in excellent order. He accompanied the party to a prosperous little institution, founded by himself, called "La Maison des Jeunes Détenus, ou Nouvel Pénitencier," for twenty-eight young delinquents, boys. They had all been committed for theft, and collected from the different prisons of the department. They appeared very kindly cared for by the Abbé; they

sleep separately at night, with the exception of some, who, for good conduct, are permitted to be together in one apartment. The town prison contained more than sixty prisoners; the women in a separate part of the building; but there was no further classification, not even the tried from the untried, nor any employment. After this, Mrs. Fry visited a large Hospital, in which were four English sailors, from ships in the port. One of these recognised her, having seen her on board a female convict ship, in the river Thames, and greeted her as though she were an old and valued friend. He informed those who accompanied her who she was, which they had not previously understood. This fatiguing day was concluded by dining at Monsieur Rabaut's.

From Hyères, where for two days, through "orange groves and myrtle bowers," she looked forth upon the blue waters of the Mediterranean, Mrs. Fry returned to Toulon, "refreshed" and ready for work.

The following morning, the Protestant Pasteur and a naval Captain, appointed to accompany her by the Préfet de la Marine, went with Mrs. Fry to visit the Arsenal, and afterwards the Bagnes, or Prison of galley-slaves. They sleep upon the boards, one or two hundred in each gallery, chained to a long iron rod, which runs along the foot of the sleeping boards. Their food consists of bread and dried beans. There is one *salle*, which can contain four hundred, for such as have improved in conduct; to them mattresses and rugs for covering are permitted.

In their leisure hours they are allowed to make and sell little carved toys and netting. Their look is gene-

rally unhealthy. The dress consists of a red cap and jacket. The greater number are fastened two and two by heavy chains ; notwithstanding which they often escape. One Englishman, taken on board a slaver, was amongst them. The returns are numerous ; the necessary result of unchecked communication and intercourse.

From Toulon they proceeded to Aix, the centre of Provençal Song, where once King René held his court, surrounded by his Troubadours. There her heart was attracted by a lively little Protestant congregation under a zealous, and apparently, spiritual pastor ; a vast contrast to the scene which met her view on turning into the "Course," on her arrival at Aix—the procession of the "Fête Dieu," in all its tinsel finery. From Aix, the travellers returned to Nismes. The formation of a District Society was much discussed. Sunday the 10th was passed there—a most onerous day it proved—two crowded meetings, and multitudes of persons coming to see Mrs. Fry.

At Montpellier a Protestant Ladies' Committee was formed to visit the great female prison there. It is a "Maison Centrale," and contained at that time five hundred women. The prisoners were employed in work-rooms ; some resistance had been shown on their part to the introduction of the female officers, so that this visit was useful and timely. Mrs. Fry visited this prison again the following day, and had a long conversation at her Hotel, with the Director and the new Matron, on their important duties. After this, she met a number of Protestant ladies at the Pastor Losignol's, who had waited for her arrival to form themselves into a Com-

mittee for visiting the Protestant women, both in the Prison and Hospital ; this Committee was then regularly organized, and was, as well as that formed at Marseilles, to correspond with the Committee in Paris. In the evening, she returned to the Pastor Losignol's, as she supposed to spend a quiet social evening, but found instead, a large congregation assembled for a religious meeting. There were rich and poor, all ages, and the place so crowded, that the windows were lined with listeners, and boys perched upon the trees beyond.

In the evening, at Béziers, after a fatiguing day, whilst resting and refreshing themselves at the Hotel, the Sous-Préfet was announced, he having been requested by the Préfet at Montpellier, to show Mrs. Fry attention during her visit to Béziers. He was anxious she should see the prison and hospital, but all arrangements had been made to set off again at five in the morning, and therefore, fatigued as she was, she and her companions consented to accompany him at once to the prison. It had become quite dark as this little band threaded its way through the narrow winding streets of Béziers—how altered since those streets ran blood, when, during the first crusade against the Albigeois, the papal legate gave order to the Roman Catholic chieftains “to kill all, for God knows those who are His.”

The astonished gaoler, candle in hand, followed by his myrmidons, answered the thundering rap of the Sous-Préfet ; and the mastiffs which were prowling in the yards having been chained up, this badly-constructed and ill-arranged prison was inspected

In returning to the Hotel, they paid a visit to the

Cathedral, a vast, lofty, gothic building, of one aisle and transepts, which had been lighted up to receive them. The effect was magnificent, illumined by a glare of partial light from the various altars, and the lamps carried by the attendants.

Saturday the 15th, was a cloudy day, and travelling comparatively easy. Quiet, cool rooms at the Hotel de France at Toulouse, afforded the travellers a most welcome retreat, for the heat had become extreme, and their fatigue overwhelming.

At Toulouse two prisons were visited, an important prison meeting held, and Mrs. Fry also had an exceedingly solemn and satisfactory Scripture-reading and time of prayer, with the Courtois family, one or two pasteurs, and other religious persons.

CHAPTER XX.

REST AT LAST—BAGNERES DE LUCHON—A LOOK INTO SPAIN—MILITARY HOSPITAL AT BAREGES—PAU—GRENOBLE—GENEVA—RETREAT AT BONINGEN—RETURN HOME—JOURNEY INTO NORFOLK—AUDIENCE OF THE QUEEN—INFANT BAPTISM—PUBLIC MEETING IN LONDON.

MRS. FRY'S determined perseverance had surmounted every obstacle as long as her physical powers permitted; but they were beginning to fail. Rest, and some cessation from mental and bodily labour, had become indispensable, and she yielded, though not without reluctance, to her husband's wish for a short tarriance in the cooler atmosphere of the Pyrenees.

From Bagnerès de Luchon, which they found a delightful resting-place, they excursed occasionally amongst the neighbouring mountains.

One of these expeditions was to the Lake D'Oo. The gentlemen of the party, who were on horseback, having gone on, Mrs. Fry and her daughter found themselves, when about half way up a steep ascent, on a little level of green sward, shadowed by a huge rock. They left their chairs for the carriers to rest themselves. A group of wild-looking peasants were reposing near. Mrs. Fry sat down by them, and entered into conversation; they assured her, they "adored the Virgin in those parts."

She took out her French Text-book ; the eight bearers joined the party. She read some words of Scripture, then drew their attention to the wonderful works of God in creation, in the beautiful scene around them ; from thence, she led to His infinite mercy, in giving a Saviour to die for them. They listened with earnestness and respect, and thankfully received the little books she offered.

On another occasion Mrs. Fry accompanied her family on an excursion into Spain. A wet night, followed by a cloudy morning, gave promise of more temperate weather ; after leaving Luchon, the party passed through the forest and valley of Beurbe, defiling along a mountain path, higher and higher, till, on a lofty crest, it turned suddenly downwards at a point, where a small rock marked the boundary, and the guide exclaimed, " Nous voici en Espagne." For about half an hour they descended to where beech trees and oaks again grew amidst small patches of cultivation. Two Catalonian peasants were there in their brown costume and scarlet sashes, and caps with long depending peaks. Mrs. Fry, through the kind agency of Mr. Forster, was well supplied with extracts from Scripture in Spanish ; to these men she gave several of them. Whilst the party dined on the grass, they observed one of them reading attentively, as he sat under the shade of a spreading chesnut, surrounded by his flock of goats. When rested and refreshed, they continued their descent to a spot where they found several scattered cottages. Desiring to sow as " beside all waters," she left the little scripture extracts at all these ; in the manger of a cow-house, or on

a nail of the door, for she had heard that the Spaniards, including the priests, were eager for books, and carefully preserved them; then from a rocky height she looked down on the valley below, through which the Garonne flowed like a silver thread, whilst Spanish fields, villages, and roads were spread at her feet. Some days afterwards, the guide who had accompanied her on this occasion, came to request some of these little books to carry with him on the following day, when he was to conduct a gentleman into Spain—for that he should certainly be asked for them. Many had been by Mr. Forster consigned to an intelligent custom-house officer, who was often stationed at an advanced guard-house, high up amongst the mountains on the Spanish passes.

When about to leave this part of the Pyrenees, upon entering the first little town of the plains, their carriage was stopped by this man. Their first impression was, that some regulation of the Customs was the cause of their detention, but they found the motive to be a very different one. He was anxious before they went away to obtain any of the little Spanish books that might remain. He assured them, he should have many opportunities when his turn came to be again on duty at the out-posts, to send them into Spain. In this, as well as in the instance of the guide, the intention was probably to sell the books, but the object of disseminating scripture in the vernacular tongue would be as well, if not better accomplished, than if they were gratuitously distributed.

At Bagnères de Bigorre, they entered the gorge that leads to Luz. They passed the ruined castle of St.

Marie, built by the English, the Templar's Fortress-church at Luz, and pursued their way to St. Sauveur. There they remained some days, amidst the shadowy mountains which surround the town, the rushing waters not alone of the Gaves, or rapid rivers of the district, but the hundred little rivulets which feed them, tumbling and foaming from the heights above.

At Barèges they visited the great Military Hospital, and obtained leave to introduce the New Testament. By permission of the Directors, they distributed about two hundred tracts among the patients. They remained the following Sabbath at St. Sauveur, holding a little Meeting in their room in the morning, whilst an English clergyman had service in his parlour. In the evening most of the English (two clergymen among the number), assembled in Mrs. Fry's rooms, and a very solemn religious meeting was held. Meanwhile at the Catholic Chapel, a sermon was preached, warning the people against the little books that the Protestant visitors might distribute, especially "one lady, who went up even into the mountains to give them away." These were all to be given to the priest, or committed to the flames, unread, on pain of excommunication.

On the 8th, they departed for Pau. The drive was beautiful, through country familiarized by Froissard's descriptions, by the valley of Argeliez, and the old castle of Lourdes. Pau delighted them. In the birth-place of one, for a time the hero of the Protestant Faith, there is still a small body of Christian believers, untainted by the errors of Romanism, and adhering to the pure and simple faith of their forefathers. A few Pro-

testants were found at Tarbes. With them Mrs. Fry had a Meeting, and was exceedingly interested by them and their pasteur M. Doudret.

Mrs. Fry particularly wished to spend a Sabbath at Grenoble, which appeared singularly useful, and one of open communication with many persons, both Roman Catholics and Protestants.

The prison at Grenoble is an old and ill-constructed building, but kept very clean, and its defects and the wants of the prisoners as much remedied as possible, by an active Committee of ladies and gentlemen, who pay much attention to the bodily wants of the prisoners, The moral and religious instruction did not appear so well cared for, although they saw one man reading de Sacy's New Testament. The funds of these Committees are chiefly derived from money dropped into a box at the gate, by the peasants and lower class of persons, to obtain the prayers of the prisoners, which are considered, by them, peculiarly efficacious in releasing souls from purgatory; it often amounts to as much as eighty francs in a fortnight, which is chiefly expended in linen for the prisoners' use; the chaplain occasionally employing some of the better sort of prisoners, to say the prayers for the souls.

The Government and authorities have tried to put down this system of the "tronc," but have been successfully opposed by the Committee, on the ground that they have neither power nor right to interfere with private almsgiving, its purpose, or appropriation.

Geneva now lay before Elizabeth Fry. She had long wished to go there, not for its glorious sunsets, nor its

mountains, nor its lake—though no one was more capable of appreciating their beauties—but that she might hold communion, face to face, with many loved and honoured ones, personally unknown to her, who dwelt there. She was aware of the differences in the reformed Geneva Church. She perceived the peculiar difficulties that must accrue in a population where the balance between Popery and Protestantism is so evenly held. With her loving heart, and expansive liberality, she longed to come amongst them, to urge the many points where all could unite ; and to speak a word as it might be given her, for the Master she loved, and so entirely desired to serve.

In Madame Vernet Mrs. Fry found a congenial friend, a mother in Israel. At Coppett lived Madame de Stael, her daughter, and with her the Duke de Broglie, the brother-in-law of the Baron de Stael. One evening a very large party assembled at Madame Vernet's. It had been Mrs. Fry's most earnest wish, to enjoy some conversation of a decidedly religious character with her Genevan friends, on points forming the common ground of faith and hope, with all who look only to one Mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus our Lord ; but the occasion proved somewhat different to her expectations ; for in the evening came in a Sardinian, Count Pettiti, a kindred spirit in works of benevolence and philanthropy, and soon the conversation turned upon prison subjects, on which both the Count and Mrs. Fry spoke at considerable length. She handled the subject in a manner peculiar to herself, and to the opportunity she then possessed. Some were present that even-

ing belonging to the National Church of Geneva, a Church fallen from her first love, whose doctrines have become tinctured with vital error, and her faith corrupted and mystified.

Mrs. Fry felt the opportunity to be one given her to *use* ; a solemn responsibility lay upon her, and it was with trembling earnestness that she called the attention of her hearers to her experience in Prisons. She spoke of her firm conviction, that no human means of Reformation amongst Prisoners can avail aught, except God's Word be brought to bear upon their own condition, their daily life, their past sins, their future improvement. Earnestly she told of the one way open alike to the weary-hearted guilty captive, and to "whosoever will," among men : that way, the precious Blood of the Lamb slain, whereby alone the sinner can be reconciled to God, and be cleansed from the power and guilt of his original and contracted transgression. The impression she made was deep and permanent. Many remember the edification and instruction they there received, and recall with grateful emotion her clear earnest statement of the way of Life.

At Beseinge, the beautiful place of Colonel Tronchin, a few miles from the Lake, Mrs. Fry met above a hundred persons at an entertainment given by the hospitable owner of the domain. The repast was laid out in the avenue, and after its conclusion, Hymns were sung, and thanks returned, and then they withdrew to the house, where Mrs. Fry appears to have spoken with peculiar power and wisdom. M. La Harpe, of the "Société Evangelique," and Theological professor of the

Geneva School, acted as her interpreter. The occasion was one of deep interest and improvement. "I can never forget Mrs. Fry, at Beseinge, or her words of faith and earnest counsel," says one there present, M. Anet, Secretary of the Belgian Société Evangelique; "they were burned like words of fire on my heart and brain."

"We had half expected a philosophical discourse upon subjects of a philanthropical and general interest; but everything that fell from her lips was characterized by delicacy, extreme simplicity, and an ardent desire to draw our attention to our own happiness, in being permitted the opportunity for meditation on the one subject which seemed always present in her thoughts, Christ Jesus crucified for the expiation of our sins. At this distance of time I have an actual realization of the opening of her exhortation—'I think it is impossible for us to be more profitably employed than by occupying the next few moments with the contemplation of the love which the Lord Jesus has for us'—were her arresting words."

"I was at that time a young student at the Genevan school, under M. La Harpe, and much absorbed with my studies preparatory to my entrance into the ministry, but those words can never leave my memory as long as I retain any power of recollection. After a little time spent at the large table, with the host, the magistrates, chief people of the Republic, and others, Mrs. Fry joined us, a cluster of students and others, under a wide spreading tree, and, through her interpreter, spoke to us all, with kindness and much judgment. In order a little better to understand the circumstances of that *déjeuner*, I must premise that above fifty persons having

arrived at Beseinge, uninvited by Colonel Tronchin, but drawn there by an irresistible impulse, to see and to listen to Mrs. Fry, the tables spread out in the avenue were found insufficient to accommodate all those assembled. The students, therefore, and the younger portion of the guests had retired to a little distance, to a beautiful spot under one of the finest trees in the place, surrounded by flowering shrubs, and carpeted by a soft moss of the richest green ; there we made for ourselves a sort of eastern banquet, each reclining in the position the most convenient for the repast ; and supplied with provisions by Colonel Tronchin's care, the mossy bank became our banqueting hall, the rough rocks, which rose here and there from that verdant covering, our tables. Thus placed we chanted our hymns, at Mrs. Fry's request, and then all returned to the house together. The rooms were full to overflowing ; my fellow-students and I took up our places in the passage, on the staircase, crowded round the open door, eagerly hanging on such parts of the beautiful exhortation, as we could catch by the most breathless attention : after she had concluded she kindly came out among us, and expressed her regret that we should have been so inconvenienced. I can see her now, her tall figure leaning on Colonel Tronchin's arm, M. la Harpe at her side, her dignified, animated, yet softened countenance, bending towards us. I can never forget it. Such occasions are rare in life ; they are very green spots in the garden of memory—more, they are opportunities given for improvement, solemnly increasing the responsibility of each who participates in them. May I never lose the impression of that day

at Beseinge, nor the holy lessons I there heard and learned."

It was on the same day, that Mrs. Fry accompanied by Colonel Tronchin, visited the institution which he had founded on his grounds, for receiving convalescents during that trying period of debility and weakened energy, which so commonly follows severe illness, and requires such judicious and tender treatment. All admitted into this valuable institution were under spiritual instruction.

On another occasion, at the Hotel, a party of above eighty met in the evening, expressly to discuss the state of prisons.

The Sunday morning the travellers sat down in their room as usual, to worship after the simple manner of Friends. Some of the Vernet family, and a few others were present, and it proved a very solemn meeting. In the evening, their Scripture reading was attended by several pasteurs and a very numerous company, some belonging to the Evangelical section of the church, and others to that national church, whose creeds and catechisms, alas! but too clearly shew the fearful unsoundness of their doctrine and faith. On this occasion she read the 58th chapter of Isaiah, and spoke at length on some parts of it. She prayed solemnly for those present; for the pasteurs, that they might be endued with wisdom and strength, for all who love the Lord, everywhere and of every name, and for the inhabitants of Geneva in particular.

Mrs. Fry was much struck with the completeness of the "Maison Pénitentiare" at Geneva. There were only

fifty prisoners, under a Directeur, Sous Directeur, M. Grellet, brother of Stephen Grellet, and many Guardians. The prisoners are divided into four classes, perfectly separated from each other, and their treatment varying in severity. They work and eat in common, each class in its own atelier; they also recreate, each in the yard of the class, but sleep in separate cells; in every cell is a bed, a chair, table, shelf and some books. For the Protestants, Ostervald's Bible is provided; for the Catholics, the Manuel du Chrétien: they are here for long terms of imprisonment. The returns average fourteen to the hundred; but the health fails after the first or second year.

The second time she visited it, the prisoners were assembled in the chapel, for Mrs. Fry to have a religious opportunity with them. The Roman Catholic priest, however, did not allow his flock to be present.

The same thing occurred at the Evêché, an old, bad prison, about to be pulled down; the priest was there, purposely to prevent the four or five Roman Catholic women being present, should Mrs. Fry speak to the women, unless she would promise only to enforce "morality," and not touch on religion or Christian faith. She assured him she never touched upon the "dogmas" of religion, only on the great principles of faith and practice. This would not do, and the Roman Catholic women were withdrawn!

The Penitentiaries at Geneva, Lausanne, and Berne, appeared, in most respects, admirably arranged and conducted, though in some points open to improvement. At Berne, a circumstance occurred, very exceptional to

Mrs. Fry's usual proceedings. She addressed the female prisoners at some length, well interpreted for by Sophia Werstemberger, a young German lady present. This address, Miss Werstemberger afterwards embodied in a tract, which has been extensively circulated in prisons ; a tone of lamentation for the past, and entreaty for the future, more than reproof or exhortation, pervades the whole : the conclusion is a clear exposition of Gospel truth, and an earnest invitation to repentance and amendment of life. At Berne, Mrs. Fry visited Dr. Fellenburg's excellent Institution for Boys.

Here, Mrs. Fry considered her journey, in a more directly religious point of view, to terminate.

Mr. Forster returned to England, and Mr. and Mrs. Fry, with their children, withdrew for a while to the little Inn at Bönigen. But in the midst of relaxation, she did not forget her peculiar objects. She called on the pastor at Grindenvald, and found his flock numerous, scattered and ignorant. Very few had Bibles ; partly that the Bible Society had not reached the place, and partly from these mountain peasants having a strong predilection for large Bibles with clasps ; these, they look upon as a sort of heir-loom, but their costliness renders them almost unattainable.

One Sunday was passed at Brienz, where they had the unexpected pleasure of meeting some of Mrs. Fry's excellent friends of the Mackenzie family from Edinburgh, and of spending a quiet day together, concluded by a reading in the evening. The pastor of this place was also visited, and the condition of his flock inquired into. On a previous occasion when on the Lake of Brienz, a

poor boy who rowed the boat, told her that his mother lay sick in a cottage he pointed out. It rested on her mind, and in crossing the lake to return to Bönigen, she landed not without difficulty, accompanied by the wife of the pasteur of Brienz. They found the poor woman very ill on a mattress, spread in the gallery of her cottage, with her Bible by her side ; she was an afflicted discouraged Christian woman, to whom the few words of encouragement offered, were very timely, to strengthen that, which, through bodily suffering, seemed almost ready to die. Her temporal wants were not forgotten, and the case was left under care of the pastor's wife.

Whilst at Bönigen, the landlord of the little inn and his family attended their Sunday evening readings. On one of these occasions a peasant girl was with them who appeared pious and afflicted. Her name was Madelina Kauss. She came from a neighbouring village to seek council of Mrs. Fry. Madelina and her mother had joined themselves to a little body of pious people, Pietists, somewhat resembling Methodists, seceders from the National Church. The father, a coarse ignorant man, vehemently threatened his wife, and turned his daughter out of doors to earn her own livelihood, by weaving for nine French sous a day. Good people from Berne who interfered on their behalf, had only made matters worse. It so fell out about this time, that a certain small old-fashioned black-letter German newspaper reached the little inn at Bönigen, and the host and his household were startled, therein to find a long account of his guests, a history of Mrs. Fry, "her works and labours" of love, concluding with her visit to the Oberland of

Berne, and residence at Herr Mitchell's country inn. After careful perusal of this wonderful document, it occurred to the worthy host that in his inmates he had found the very people to rectify the wrongs of poor Madelina, and restore peace in her parents' dwelling, persons in his opinion not to be resisted by Henrich Kauss, the peasant of Wildersewyl, to whom he advised that a visit should forthwith be made. When the carriage came to convey the party, he insisted on driving it himself arrayed in his holiday costume. The interview with the family was quite pathetic. The father laid the fault of his violence and severity on the grandfather, and he on the schoolmaster ; but a little kind and wise conciliation sufficed to bring them all to tears. They wept and kissed, and Herr Mitchell wept for sympathy ; after which Mrs. Fry had a religious time with Madelina, her mother, and a few of their neighbours, leaving them with the thankful belief that they had been permitted to act the blessed part of peacemakers.

After leaving Bönigen, Mrs. Fry was met at Thun by Miss Werstemberger, and in the evening Mr. Felemburgh, the chaplain of the prison at Berne, arrived there also : a few important hours devoted to prison subjects were beautifully concluded by reading and prayer, in which Mr. Felemburgh took part.

The state of things at the time of their visit to Zurich, both religiously and politically, was very peculiar. A few months before, the government had appointed Professor Strauss to the Theological chair, an avowed unbeliever. This appointment was so violently opposed by the majority of the population, Protestant as well as Ro-

man Catholic, that the Professor was obliged to withdraw, and the chair remained vacant. Those in power finding themselves thus thwarted in their intentions, resorted to the expedient of placing masters, unsound in matters of faith, in the national schools. The pastors of the evangelical section considered it their duty to institute a society, or central committee, to counteract so fearful an evil. The very day before Mrs. Fry arrived in Zurich, orders had been issued by the government to prohibit and put down all meetings in their districts. To convene and hold meetings is one of the fundamental rights of the Zurichois, which the magistrates on taking office are sworn to maintain inviolate. Some of them declared they would not break this oath. During the travellers' tarriance these parties remained in this position ; but a few days after they left the place, a civil war broke out, and a fearful struggle ensued, before, by the interposition of the more moderate, even external order could be re-established.

The morning of their departure from Zurich, the venerable Mr. Gesner (Antistes, or Prelate of the Canton), and many others, called to take leave. This apostolic old man pronounced a wonderful blessing on Mrs. Fry, to which she replied in terms so heart-tendering, that the bystanders wept aloud. A tedious journey of four days, through very wet weather, brought the travellers to Stuttgard ; here the impediment of the language was great, few of those to whom their letters were delivered speaking either French or English. They proceeded to Ludwigsburg for Sunday. There Mrs. Fry must be her own narrator—

Ludwigsburg, (a few miles from Stuttgard), Ninth Month 1st.—On the evening of the day that I wrote at Zurich, we went with our very dear friend La Baronne Pelet, afterwards joined by the Baron, to the house of that ancient devoted pasteur, Gesner. His wife was the daughter of that excellent servant of the Lord, Lavater. We met a large number of persons, I believe generally serious. I had proposed to myself speaking on the Prison subject, but my way opened differently ; to enlarge upon the state of the Protestant Church in France, to encourage all its members to devotedness ; and particularly in that place, where deep trials have been their portion, from their Government upholding infidelity and infidel men. At the close of the Meeting, our venerable friend, Gesner, spoke in a lively, powerful manner, and avowed his belief that the Lord Himself had enabled me to express what I had done, it was so remarkably “the word in season.” I paid, also, a satisfactory religious visit to the female prisoners in the afternoon. The next morning I visited the head magistrate, represented the evils I had observed, and saw some ladies about visiting prisons. We afterwards went a sweet expedition on the Lake, with our beloved friends the Baron and Baroness Pelet. Early in the evening I set off with a dear girl—great grand-daughter to Lavater, and grand-daughter to Pasteur Gesner, Barbara Usteri, in a curious little carriage, to pay some visits, and to spend an evening at the house of the aunt of Matilda Escher, another interesting young woman, with whom I had become acquainted, I believe providentially, at an inn near Interlachen. I had no one with me but strangers, as my dear family stayed

with the Baron and Baroness Pelet at my desire ; but I felt not among strangers, because those who love the Lord Jesus are dear to me, and in our holy Head we are one. I can hardly express, on this journey, how much I have found this to be the case—the love, the unity, and the home feeling, I have had with those I never saw before ; and I have also found how little it matters where we are, for “where the God of peace is, there is home.”

A letter to Mr. Klett, resident Inspector of the Prison at Ludwigsburgh, was delivered, and half-past seven o'clock the next morning, appointed for her visit to that place. There a Swiss lad of eighteen years of age, was in waiting to act as interpreter. The women, though it was Sunday, were engaged in needlework by order of the King, a sad sight in a Protestant country. They also visited an Orphan Asylum ; and in the evening again went to the prison. The women are well instructed by a devoted lady, who spends her life in this service. They appeared in a tender, feeling state of mind, and a solemn reading of the Scriptures impressed them much.

At Frankfort they met with most cordial reception from their dear friend Dr. Pinkerton and his family. A rapid journey thence brought them to Ostend ; and on the evening of the 13th of September they arrived at Upton Lane, “in peace and safety.”

With the exception of a journey into Norfolk, the winter of 1839–40 was passed by Mrs. Fry with much tranquillity at home. She did not return the certificate which she had received from Friends for her continental journey in 1839. She had, when she asked for it, some

expectation of prolonging her travels in Germany, but her objects in France occupied so much more time than she anticipated, that she was under the necessity of returning to England ; she, however, did not abandon the idea, but waited and watched for opportunity to complete the work she had begun. The time now seemed approaching, when she might again leave home with satisfaction.

Her brother, Samuel Gurney, his daughter Elizabeth, and their friend, William Allen, with his niece, Lucy Bradshaw, agreed to accompany her. But there were certain things resting on her mind to be done before she left England ; they are described in her journal, dated February 1, 1840.

Upton, Second Month, 1st.—I am called to visit our young Queen to-day, in company with William Allen, and I hope my brother Samuel also.

We went to Buckingham Palace, and saw the Queen. Our interview was short. Lord Normanby, the Home Secretary, presented us. The Queen asked us where we were going on the Continent. She said it was some years since she saw me. She asked about Caroline Neave's Refuge, for which she had lately sent the fifty pounds. This gave me an opportunity of thanking her. I ventured to express my satisfaction, that she encouraged various works of charity ; and I said, it reminded me of the words of Scripture—"With the merciful Thou wilt shew Thyself merciful." Before we withdrew, I stopped and said, I hoped the Queen would allow me to assure her, that it was our prayer that the blessing of God might rest upon the Queen and her Consort.

Our beloved daughter, Louisa, was confined on Fourth Day. The babe, a lovely girl, breathed for twenty-four hours, and then died. They had the child named and baptized. I happened to be present, and certainly some of the prayers were very solemn, and such as I could truly unite with ; but part of the ceremony appeared to me superstitious, and having a strong savour of the dark ages of the Church.

I have for some time believed, that duty would call me to have a Meeting in London and the neighbourhood, previous to leaving home. I see many difficulties attached to it, and perhaps none so much, as my great fear of women coming too forward in these things, beyond what the Scripture dictates ; but I am sure the Scripture most clearly and forcibly lays down the principle, that the Spirit is not to be grieved, or quenched, or vexed, or resisted ; and on this principle I act, under the earnest desire that I may not do this, but that whatever the Lord leads me into by His Spirit, may be done faithfully to Him, and in His name ; and I am of opinion, that nothing Paul said, to discourage women's speaking in the Churches, alluded to their speaking through the help of the Spirit, as he clearly gave directions how they should conduct themselves under such circumstances, when they prayed or prophesied.

The proposed Meeting took place. The large Meeting House, belonging to Friends, in Bishopsgate Street, was filled to overflowing. Persons were there of all ranks and various denominations.

A lady, not a Friend, who was present, thus describes the scene, and the impression it made upon her mind :—

“ It was really a most impressive occasion—the large fine circular building filled—not less, I should think, than fifteen hundred present. Mrs. Fry began by entreating the sympathy and supplications of those present. I cannot tell you how mine flowed forth on her behalf. After her prayer, we sat still for some time, then William Allen spoke, and then she rose, giving as a text—‘ Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead :’ and uncommonly fine was her animated yet tender exhortation to all present, but more especially the young, to present themselves as living sacrifices to the Lord—to be made of Him new creatures in Christ—the old things passed away, and all things become new, as those alive from the dead. This change she dwelt and enlarged on much ; its character, and the Power that alone can effect it ; the duty demanded of us—‘ Yield yourselves,’ and its infinite and eternal blessedness. I was astonished and deeply impressed, and my feeling was—‘ Surely God is amongst us of a truth.’ ”

CHAPTER XXI.

LEAVES HOME FOR THE CONTINENT—CONVENT AT BRUGES—BRUSSELS
—ROTTERDAM—PRISON AT GOUDA—MINDEN AND PYRMONT—
FRIENDS THERE—HANOVER—BERLIN—REST AT LEIPZIG—DUSSEL-
DORF—PRISON ASSOCIATION THERE—RETURN HOME—NURSING-
SISTERS—NIGER EXPEDITION—ALARMING MISTAKE.

MRS. FRY had to take this journey unaccompanied by any of her own children. She could not satisfactorily withdraw her eldest daughter from the important place she filled at home; none of the married ones were in circumstances to justify their leaving their families. This added much to the pain and effort involved; happily in Mr. Samuel Gurney, she had a faithful friend and wise counsellor, as well as a most loving brother, and in his daughter Elizabeth*, one singularly capable of ministering to her aunt's necessities, and aiding in her undertakings. They crossed to Ostend, February 26th, and pursued their way to Bruges. There Mrs. Fry went to the English convent to call upon a lady, a professed nun, the sister of an old family friend. To her nature the "shutting in system," was abhorrent. This she candidly avowed to her friend, and to the superior who had accompanied her to the grating.

The Maison de Force, at Ghent, Mrs. Fry considered

* Now Mrs. Ernest Bunsen.

to be, in most respects, excellently conducted ; but in another prison there, she was shocked at the sight of a cell, so contrived, the floor and sides being formed of angular pieces of wood, that no one could lie down, stand, or lean against the walls, without a species of prolonged torture.

The English workmen at Ghent form a numerous body, but without schools or any pastoral care. Mrs. Fry held a meeting with them, their wives and children. It was numerously attended, and her council and exhortations were listened to by them with earnest attention.

Brussels abounded in objects of interest. Writing from thence her niece says :—

“ Had I a hundred times more power of writing, I could not initiate you into our life here. A great Meeting is now assembling in the Table d’Hôte salon, fitted up by our landlord for the occasion. This is to be our farewell Meeting. We have had a very full morning, partly employed in distributing books. The servants at the palace sent an entreaty that they might not be overlooked. I wish you could have seen us looking out a good variety for about sixty of them.

“ Yesterday began with a full tide of business. They were to see the King at twelve o’clock. My aunt looked beautifully. He is a particularly pleasing-looking man, rather older than I expected. The Duchess of Kent had kindly written to the King, to say that my aunt was likely to visit Brussels.

“ I must tell you about our dinner at M. le Comte de —, the first Roman Catholic family here. We were taken there by our kind friend Count Arrivabene. The

party consisted of fifteen persons, only two speaking English. Amongst them was the Dean, the head of the Church here, under the Bishop of Malines. Much that was interesting passed. The Dean and our aunt seated themselves in a corner of the room, and by degrees the whole party gathered round ; the Count and Josiah Forster interpreting by turns. It was a critical thing to know what to say, as the conversation became more and more of a religious nature. She began on the prisons—prevention of crime—how much the upper classes are often the cause, by example, of the sins of the lower ; related a few of her prison facts as proofs, and finally ended by saying, ‘ Will the Dean allow me to speak my mind candidly ? ’ His permission being given, and that of the Count and Countess, she began by expressing the sincere interest that she felt for the inhabitants of this city, and how much she had been desiring for them, ‘ that as a people, they might each place less confidence in men and in the forms of religion, and look to Christ with an entire and simple faith.’ The priest said nothing, but turned the subject, and asked what the views of the Quakers were ; upon which Josiah Forster gave them a short account in French, which appeared to interest them all.”

At Rotterdam they visited a large prison for boys. They are capitally taught by gentlemen, who visit them daily, as well as by an excellent schoolmaster. Another prison under the same roof, for women, was solely under the care of men. In the evening, a large party of Dutch, both gentlemen and ladies, assembled at the Hotel ; the occasion concluded with a short bible-reading.

Mrs. Fry was much impressed with the character of the country, and the strange effect of the reclaimed land. She speaks of going "over land and water" to Gouda, about twelve miles from Rotterdam, to see the female prison there. This prison contained about three hundred women ; they were under the care of two female officers, appointed only a short time before. There were five men to assist them, but no watch over the women was kept at night. A letter written from Amsterdam by Mrs. Fry completes the account of the Gouda prison, their visit to the Hague, and to the military prison at Leyden.

"The female prisoners at Gouda are visited by two very interesting ladies (Madame veuve Van Meerten, and Madlle. H. M. de Graves), and some gentlemen. We were received by about six gentlemen, and these two ladies, with the greatest kindness ; coffee ready for us at the prison. Such a curious place I never saw ; we had to ascend story upon story, by stairs little better than ladders, and at the very top we found three great rooms in the roof where the women worked ; two were attended by a female officer, the other was without. We spoke to them, which they appeared to feel, their tears running down their faces. It was most evident, through every disadvantage, that great good resulted from the ladies' visits, and their labours had been much blessed. The next morning we went to the Hague, and dined that day at the English Minister's Sir Edward Disbrowe. We became acquainted with a very superior Dutch family, and a good many other persons. We visited a sad prison, in company with several gentlemen, in the morn-

ing ; and a considerable number came to us in the afternoon, trying to form committees to visit prisons. The Secretary of the Interior came in the morning, and we had a thorough prison conversation with him. In the evening we went to a large religious party, at the house of the French pasteur ; here I took a part which appeared to be very well accepted ; the pasteur prayed for us. We then drank tea in a very beautiful Dutch house, with a rich, but excellent gentleman, his wife, and some other choice persons. The next morning we set off for this place, visiting the large military prison at Leyden, where we saw the excellent effect of the Scriptures being freely read. Our Sabbath ended highly satisfactorily ; we had a very large Dutch company, an English clergyman and a Scotch minister. After our reading, and William Allen and myself had spoken, a gentleman got up, and in a powerful, encouraging and beautiful manner, expressed his unity with us, and satisfaction in our visit. He is, they say, a very pious, devoted and learned man, a merchant here. We then ended in prayer."

At Utrecht, Mrs. Fry and party had invited some persons to meet them at the Hotel, on the evening of arrival, but as no one appeared, they sat down, in travelling gear, to their various employments, when, to their no small surprise, ladies and gentlemen began to assemble ; and so interested did they appear in all they saw and heard, that the travellers resolved the next evening to throw open their salon to all comers. Eighty-two presented themselves. The usual topics were brought forward. Christian love flowed forth amongst them, and the evening ended with religious service. At Zeist, near Utrecht,

there is a large Moravian Settlement. Mrs. Fry went to see it. A weighty concern had long rested on her mind towards the conductors of the Moravian Church. Their isolated mode of life, hiding their light from their fellow men, and not turning their powers and talents to greater account. This she brought before the elders of that body at Zeist, and urged it strongly upon their consideration.

Utrecht to Zwolle, and thence to Minden, was the route pursued by the travellers. They wished to visit a small body of Friends resident there, as well as a larger congregation at Pyrmont.

Whether the German character is really more suited to receive the doctrines and principles of Friends than the French, or whether the difference be in effect and manner only, the fact is obvious that at Minden and Pyrmont "Quakerism" assumes much more of an English garb than at Congenies. Not so, however, in the article of apparel, to judge by a sketch Mrs. Fry sends home of an ancient Friend. "A close-fitting skull cap, either quilted or knitted, a purple handkerchief, a striped apron, curious to look upon; but a sweet old woman, abounding in love."

Young as well as old were wonderfully attracted by Mrs. Fry; the little ones would press round her, and try to climb upon her knee, and when there, nestle to her bosom; neither gifts nor language are needed to reach the simple heart of childhood. A specimen of their hospitality may be found in the description of a dinner given by one of the most wealthy amongst them, at Friedensthal (or the valley of peace). The table was well covered with cakes, and dried and stewed fruits, the produce

generally of their own grounds. The soup was on the table, and one large Westphalia ham. Veal was handed round afterwards in different forms; and plum puddings (of course for the English) in the middle of dinner.

At Hanover Mrs. Fry and her companions were admitted to an audience of the Queen—she tells her family at home that a more “interesting visit to Royalty” she “never paid.”—They were “received with ceremonious respect, and shewn through many rooms to a drawing-room, where were the Queen’s Chamberlain and three ladies in waiting. They shewed us some pictures of the family, until Prince George and his half-sister came in to us; he appeared much pleased to be with me again. His sister appeared a serious and interesting young lady. After some little time we were sent for by the Queen; the King was too ill to see us. She is a stately woman, tall, large, and rather a fine countenance. We very soon began to speak of her afflictions, and I gave a little encouragement and exhortation. She was much affected, and after a little while requested us to sit down. We had very interesting and important subjects brought forward—the difficulties and temptations to which rank is subject—the importance of their influence—the objects incumbent upon them to attend to and help in, Bible Societies, Prisons, &c. We then read our address to the Queen, wishing her to patronize ladies visiting the prisons; it contained serious advice, and our desires for her, the King, and the Prince; then I gave the Queen several books, which she accepted in the kindest manner.”

At Berlin the travellers found a cordial welcome from all ranks of persons. A wonderful field of usefulness

appeared open, and many hearts ready to receive them. The gracious and kind reception accorded to Mrs. Fry and her companions by the Prussian Royal Family, was very gratifying to her. In the Princess William, sister of the late King, she found a zealous co-operator in her endeavours to ameliorate the condition of the Prisons there. This eminent and truly Christian lady had been as a mother to the younger members of the Royal Family after the death of the Queen Louisa, and in her exalted station was an example of every good word and work.

From a letter written by her niece:—

Dated, Hotel de Russie, Berlin.

“Our dear Aunt’s first evening for philanthropic purposes took place on the 13th. There is a splendid room in the hotel, capable of containing two hundred persons, where we have our réunions. At one end is raised a low platform; on this platform sat my aunt, William Allen, Lucy Bradshaw, papa, and Professor Tholück (a very noted scholar) as interpreter. A fine company of the higher classes filled more than half the room.

“It would be impossible to describe the intense interest and eagerness which prevailed when our aunt rose. Papa having introduced her to the assembly, she commenced with the deplorable state of London Prisons when she was young—her own first entering these horrid abodes—the clamour that was raised by all parties on her venturing to go in alone and unprotected—the shocking state of filth and depravity that the prisons were in, and the violence of the prisoners, the females especially, so great, that even the turnkeys hardly dare

venture amongst them. Then she related the quiet way in which she and her companions were received, their taking clothing for the children, and the respect with which the prisoners treated them. She went on to express her own feelings about introducing Christian doctrine amongst them. "Could it be possible to touch their hearts by religious truths? Shall I venture to read the Holy Scriptures to them? What effect will it produce?"

"The attention of the whole assembly seemed completely rivetted by her address. Those that could not understand a word, could at least watch her and listen to her voice. She then mentioned a few instances of the good that had been effected, and the changes that had been brought about through the means of the visiting ladies; such as, commencing public worship amongst the prisoners, and instituting matrons over them, &c. She ended with a most earnest and eloquent appeal to all, to come forward in the work, and lend their aid to seek to turn these poor sinners from the error of their ways, and to take an interest in their everlasting welfare. William Allen had previously told them the object of their mission, and a little of what they had been doing since our arrival in Berlin. Every one wants to know about our aunt's history. 'Where does she live?' 'Is she married?' And their astonishment is great, when I tell them of five and twenty grandchildren. This seems to add to the respect paid to her.

"The Princess William has been very desirous to give her sanction, as far as possible, to the Ladies' Committee for visiting the prisons that my aunt has been forming;

and to show her full approbation, had invited the Committee to meet her at her palace. So, imagine about twenty ladies assembling here, at our Hotel, at half-past twelve o'clock to-day, beautifully dressed ; and further, fancy us all driving off and arriving at the palace. The Princess had also asked some of her friends ; so, we must have been about forty. Such a party of ladies, and only our friend Count Gröben to interpret. The Princess received us most kindly, and conducting us herself to the top of the room, we talked some time whilst waiting the arrival of other members of the Royal Family—the ladies walking about the suite of rooms, and taking chocolate, for about half an hour, waiting for the Crown Princess, who soon arrived. The Princess Charles was also there, and the Crown Prince himself soon afterwards entered. I could not but long for a painter's eye, to have carried away the scene. All of us were seated in that beautiful room, our aunt in the middle of the sofa, the Crown Prince and Princess, and the Princess Charles on her right ; the Princess William, Princess Marie, and the Princess Czartoryski on the left : Count Gröben sitting near her to interpret ; the Countesses Bohlen and Dernath by her. I was sitting by the Countess Schlieffen, a delightful person, who is much interested in all our proceedings. A table was placed before our aunt, with pens, ink, and paper, like other Committees, with the various rules that our aunt and I had drawn up, and the Countess Bohlen had translated into German, and which she read to the assembly : our aunt then gave a clever concise account of the Societies in England, commencing every fresh sen-

tence, with 'If the Prince and Princesses will permit.' When business was over, my aunt mentioned some texts, which she asked leave to read. A German Bible was handed to Count Gröben, the text in Isaiah having been pointed out that our good aunt had wished for, 'Is not this the fast that I have chosen,' &c. The Count read it; after which, our aunt said, 'Will the Prince and Princesses allow a short time for prayer;' they all bowed assent, and stood, while she knelt down, and offered one of her touching, heartfelt prayers for them—that a blessing might rest on the whole place, from the King on his throne, to the poor prisoner in the dungeon, and she prayed especially for the Royal Family—then for the ladies, that the works of their hands might be prospered in what they had undertaken to perform. Many of the ladies now withdrew, and we were soon left with the Royal Family. They all invited us to see them again before we left Berlin, and took leave of us in the kindest manner."

Among other most onerous matters, Mrs. Fry felt it her duty to inquire into the actual state of the Lutheran Church, in the Prussian dominions, and whether it was still exposed to persecution. She found, that although more leniently dealt with than it had been, great oppression existed; confiscation of property and imprisonment being not unfrequently resorted to, to compel submission. Mrs. Fry could not feel justified without endeavouring to bring the subject before the King. Lord William Russell, our Ambassador, her kind and constant friend, and the Baron Humboldt, discouraged her attempting to do so. She had a strong inclination to con-

sult the Crown Prince, when the unexpected meeting at the Princess William's afforded her the desired opportunity. After earnestly petitioning the best Help, and wisdom from above, she opened the subject. His Royal Highness gave her most attentive hearing, and entirely encouraged her to act as she believed to be right. A petition had been beautifully drawn up by William Allen; this was translated into German, and presented, through the official channel, to His Majesty. It was no light matter doing this; but in faith she committed it to Him, who had put it so strongly into her heart, to bless the measure. The following day, the King's Chaplain was the bearer of the delightful intelligence, that the petition had been graciously received, and that the King had said, that "he thought the Spirit of God must have helped them to express themselves as they had done." She told this gentleman, what a subject of prayer it had been with her; to which he rejoined, that "like Daniel, her petition had been answered, before she had ceased praying."

Berlin and its interests, to use her own expression, "so expended her powers," that Mrs. Fry found a pause absolutely requisite; and whilst her companions went on to Dresden, she, with her maid, and a young German gentleman, Mr. Byerhaus, who had given himself to serve her, remained at Leipzig. She enjoyed the rest and fine weather, and exclaims—"How beautiful is the breaking forth of spring!"

Friends gathered round her: one brought her beautiful flowers, another—oranges, another—books, and a fourth—a fine print of "Prisoners at Worship."

It was remarkable the power Mrs. Fry had, and a gift, amongst the many bestowed upon her, of accepting rest, and even recreation, in the midst of her most arduous engagements. She could turn from her cares, and, after a time, resume her occupations refreshed and invigorated. Nor did this faculty apply only to longer periods of leisure. The same powers extended to short intervals of sleep. Wearied with many hours of continuous writing and attention, returned from a long day in London, or visits to the sick and afflicted, she would take off her clear muslin cap, wrap a shawl round her head, and lie down upon the sofa. She liked something thrown over her feet; scarcely was this done ere she slept, and a sleep so calm and balmy, so like the sleep of infancy, so truly "nature's soft nurse," that after a few minutes, and a very few sufficed, she would arouse, if not awakened, with a smile almost invariable and quite peculiar to herself, bathe her face in cold water, attend a little to her toilet, and return to life calmed and revived.

At Düsseldorf, Mrs. Fry was able to ascertain many particulars she wished to know, of the Association for the improvement of Prisoners in the Prussian Provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia. She found it to be composed of nine connected societies: those of Düsseldorf, Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Cleves, Coblenz, Treves—in the Rhinland; of Münster and Herford—in Westphalia.

The Society of Düsseldorf is the principal or leading society (*Haupt-Gesellschaft*), the others are of second rank. All these societies are established in places in

which there is a larger prison, and the object of their activity is principally to maintain the order of this prison; the classification of the prisoners; to furnish work; to procure the spiritual assistance of chaplains, and the use of the Holy Scriptures, and other religious books.

A General Meeting is annually held at Düsseldorf, where matters of common interest are discussed, and the reports of the different societies read. The general report is printed and distributed to the Members of the Association.

To every one of these nine societies are subjected Auxiliary societies (Hülfs-vereine), in every place of the country, where a sufficient number of men, who are interested in the subject, are to be found. The care of those auxiliary societies is to provide work, and assistance of every kind, for the discharged prisoners of their neighbourhood. The society of the place, in which he has been imprisoned, gives a notice of his dismissal to the auxiliary society in whose compass he is likely to reside.

From Düsseldorf the travellers visited the establishment of Kaiserwerth, under the care of M. Fliedner, for training Deaconesses to tend and nurse the sick, and to aid their spiritual necessities, whilst providing for their temporal wants. At that time this admirable institution had existed only four years, but its utility was generally acknowledged, and information upon the subject earnestly desired. M. Fliedner, in a letter of very recent date, has kindly furnished his recollections of the visit.

He says :—

“ The 8th of May, 1840, was a great holiday to us ; Elizabeth Fry of London visited our institution. Of all my contemporaries none has exercised a like influence on my heart and life : truly her friendship was one of the ‘ all things,’ which God in sovereign mercy has worked for my good. In January, 1824, I had had the privilege of witnessing the effects of Mrs. Fry’s wonder-working visits among the miserable prisoners of Newgate. On my return to my father-land, my object was to found a society entitled the ‘ Rhenish Westphalian Prison Association,’ having ramifications in all the provinces of Germany. In this I was greatly assisted by the advice and experience afforded me by this eminent servant of God. During my second stay in England, in 1834, I had the happiness in common with Dr. Steinkopff, of spending a day with Mrs. Fry, at her own home, and also of accompanying her in one of her visits of mercy to Newgate. By this means, I was enabled to see and admire her, in her domestic as well as public character. Thus may my happiness be estimated, when in 1840, Mrs. Fry, accompanied by her brother Joseph John Gurney, her young niece Elizabeth Gurney, William Allen and Lucy Bradshaw, came in person to see and rejoice over the growing establishment at Kaiserwerth. She saw the whole house, going into every room, and minutely examining each detail, and then delivered to the inmates a deeply interesting discourse. Many were the tears shed, and I have a bright hope, not in vain. To the ‘ helping sisters’ of the institution she gave much motherly advice, and told the results of her own labours, showing that truly

she estimated the great difficulties in educating those aright, who are hereafter to have the care of the sick and suffering. It was a particular matter of rejoicing to that dear mother in Christ, that so many of those trained at Kaiserwerth were earnestly desirous of filling places of trust in other institutions of a similar nature. She examined thoroughly the 'Mutter Haus,' and the wards for the sick, which contained at that time between forty and fifty, and was much interested in the Infant-school connected with the institution. She assembled the twenty working Deaconesses, and those who were undergoing their time of probation also, as well as the twelve young people training up for female teachers in infant schools, and with her accustomed gentle and dignified eloquence, she pointed out to them that alone through earnest love, through faith in Him, who has done all for us, could they find acceptance in these their works of mercy. In particular she urged upon the deaconesses the delicate, responsible and onerous duties of their vocation, and besought them to take for their pattern Jesus Christ, the healer and physician of mankind, in all their treatment of the bodies and souls of the afflicted ones under their care.

"After dinner, and a short interval of rest, she permitted us to share with her the rich fruits of her varied experience, thus giving us counsel and help of the most valuable kind. She examined with me the rules and regulations of the household, with which she expressed herself greatly satisfied. Truly God was in the midst of us, and the remembrance of that spirit of active self-denying love is one of the sweetest consolations which I possess, amid the

trials and difficulties which every such institution must afford.

May 26, 1848.

“THOMAS FLIEDNER.”

From Düsseldorf through Liege and Antwerp, but never ceasing in her vocation, Mrs. Fry and her party pursued their way to England. In the course of this journey, Mrs. Fry had experienced less difficulty than she anticipated from her entire ignorance of the German language, partly from the assistance of her companions, but even more from the excellent interpretation of like-minded persons, who arose for her help, as she passed on from place to place. She had also been furnished with a document most useful and important to her, by Chevalier Bunsen, at that time Prussian Minister at Berne. She had requested him to furnish her with letters of introduction to such of his countrywomen as were likely to interest themselves in the objects of her journey. Instead of this, he proposed to provide her with a printed address to the women of Germany, written as in the name of Elizabeth Fry. He informed their judgments, whilst he enlisted their sympathies on those matters which Mrs. Fry desired so earnestly to recommend to their attention. The pamphlet opens with a sketch of her prison labours, of the success which had attended them, and of the Christian principles from which she derived her strength and power to accomplish the varied and arduous works which she undertook ; it touches upon the workings of the Prison Discipline Society ; explains the various measures enacted by the British Government for the improvement of prisons and discipline amongst

the prisoners themselves ; alludes to societies formed on the Continent with a similar intention, and afterwards enlarges on the general principles involved. A spirit-stirring appeal to woman on her duties and capabilities, her high and holy mission, and her dependant yet helpful position follows.

Elizabeth Fry's return home was shortly followed by attendance at the Friends Yearly Meeting in London ; and soon afterwards by the Annual Meeting of the Ladies' British Prison Society, and she records in her journal, her impressions of this meeting, and the part she bore in conducting it.

21st.—Our British Society Meeting was, I think, well got through ; our reports, &c. &c., occupied so much time, that I could not properly say all that I wished to say ; but I trust that the short account I gave of our journey was satisfactory. I pressed a few points about prisoners, also on having Patronage Societies for discharged prisoners, and Sisters of Charity. I enlarged a little on the great good the Bible Society had effected in Europe, and the sweetness of Christian unity, as we had been enabled to maintain it in the British Society, and how I desired that the Lord Himself might preserve this unity, for with advancing years and increase of experience, I more and more feel myself a member of the Church Universal, and am less disposed than ever to any sectarian spirit.

Upton Lane, Seventh Month, 7th.—We had the French Ambassador and a large party to dinner here yesterday ; these occasions are serious to me. The query comes home—how far the expensive dinner is right to give—

and, further, whether good results from it—and whether, if death was approaching, we should thus spend our time? On the other hand, after the extraordinary kindness shown us in France, and even by the French Government, some mark of attention was due from us; also, to show hospitality to strangers is right and Christian, and in some measure to receive them as they are accustomed to live, does not appear wrong. My fear is, that the time was not turned to account, by the most important subjects being enough brought forward; I tried to do a little in this way, but I fear not enough. May my Lord keep us from in any way lowering the cause we love—may He help us by His grace, more continually to exalt it, and may neither our omissions or commissions injure it. Grant, gracious Lord, that this may be the case.

Soon afterwards Mrs. Fry encountered one of those days of extreme fatigue and overwhelming interest, which unquestionably were sapping the springs of life. The morning began with a meeting of Friends in London; afterwards she waited upon the Duchess of Gloucester—had a short interview with the Duke of Sussex—and returned to Upton, to meet, at Ham House, the residence of her brother, Samuel Gurney, the American Delegates, who had come to England on the subject of slavery. She describes her drive from London with the Duchess of Sutherland and Lord Morpeth “as pleasant and interesting.”

A fresh object about this time claimed the attention of Elizabeth Fry. Her habitual acquaintance with the chamber of sickness, and with scenes of suffering

and death, had taught her the necessity that exists for a class of women to attend upon such, altogether different and superior to the hireling nurses that are generally to be obtained. Her communications with M. Fliedner, and all she learned from him personally, and by letter, of his establishment, at Kaiserwerth, stimulated her desire to attempt something of the kind in England. Her own occupations being too urgent and numerous to allow of much personal attention, the plan was undertaken, and on a small scale carried into effect, by her sister, Mrs. Samuel Gurney, with the assistance of her daughters, and some other ladies. When not engaged in nursing, the "Sisters" reside at "the home" in the city. They wear a plain but inconspicuous dress; they are maintained and paid by the institution, but are not permitted to receive any money or gift, under any circumstances, for their attendance in illness.

The Queen Dowager kindly granted her name as Patroness. With Lady Inglis as President, and an effective Committee to conduct the management of the institution, it has steadily advanced and prospered, and now contains upwards of forty sisters. The plan of proceeding is this: suitable women are selected with great care, and their characters minutely inquired into. They are regularly trained for a certain time in one of the public hospitals, in order to prepare them for their important duties. At the expiration of this period of probation, if their conduct and qualifications be found satisfactory, they are received as sisters. They are allowed an annual stipend of £20, (which is raised to £23 after three years' service,) supplied with an appropriate dress,

and maintained in a home provided for them during the intervals of their engagements.

By the rules of the institution, Christian women of various denominations are admitted to join its ranks. No direct system of religious instruction is pursued, although the Sisters are required to attend family and public worship regularly when in the house. They are encouraged to read the Scriptures to their patients, and to endeavour to promote their spiritual welfare, as well as to labour for their bodily comfort, and there have been instances in which their efforts have appeared blessed to the souls of those under their charge. Whilst at the home, the sisters visit and nurse the sick poor in its neighbourhood. But there is another class of persons to whom their services are invaluable, persons of comparative refinement, but who are in circumstances of great limitation, perhaps wholly dependent on their own exertions for support. To such as these the boon is great indeed, of a careful, experienced, conscientious nurse; not one who squanders the little substance of the sufferer, not one who watches harpy-like for perquisites and profit, nor "snores the sick man dead," but carefully and with fidelity discharges her onerous duties. In cases of this kind a large proportion of their time is occupied often entirely gratuitously; at other times, on terms proportioned to the means of the patient, but which are very far from repaying the institution. The lowest sum which is considered to cover its current expenses is £1:1s a-week, but when circumstances claim a pecuniary sacrifice, the Committee on their part are ready to make arrangements accordingly, as well as to render

assistance entirely gratuitous, in cases of great necessity.

Mrs. Fry could have imagined a still higher calling—one of a more spiritual nature, in which love to souls should be the leading, compassion to the suffering body the secondary motive for action. Perhaps the nearest thing in England, to that which she would have desired to see, is to be found in the German Hospital, established at Dalston, where Deaconesses from Kaiserwerth perform their arduous duties in a spirit of meekness, perseverance, and love, that ensures, not only the tender and judicious care of the patient, but has been marvellously blessed, in leading many to the “Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness.”

Whilst pursuing her own peculiar avocations, Elizabeth Fry was not unmindful of the many and stirring interests of the day. Her warmest sympathies were called forth at the time of the Niger Expedition, for those brave and self-devoted men preparing to go forth with their lives in their hands to do battle against cruelty, slavery, and death. She speaks of meeting Captain Trotter and Captain Bird Allen, at her brother-in-law's, Mr. Buxton's; Sir Edward Parry, Sir Robert Inglis, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, and many others, being present. The following Sabbath, accompanied by Mr. Buxton, and her brother, Mr. Samuel Gurney, she went on board the Wilberforce. She describes this occasion as “taking place in a great hulk, there not being suitable room in the ship.”

“In the first place a considerable portion of the Church Service was read; then Captain B. Allen open-

ed the way for any present to speak;—my brother Buxton rose and addressed all present, officers and crew. Further, he said, on behalf of any there of the Society of Friends, he wished all to know that they did not come prepared, but entirely trusted to the teachings of the Holy Spirit, and how earnestly he desired, that on that occasion the Holy Spirit might be poured forth upon some present, and help them to speak. He said to those going to the expedition, how he prayed for them, and should pray for them day and night, that their Lord might be with them, keep them and bless them, (or to that effect): we then sat in silence awhile, then I arose and ministered. I think the first text I had to speak was, “Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering.” I had to show the wonderful power and efficacy of the influence of a true Christian spirit, and however humble a situation any might fill, they would be preachers of righteousness, if they were thus governed by the spirit of Christ. I showed them how our Lord made use of humble instruments, such as the poor fishermen; then I endeavoured to encourage the most peaceable conduct towards the heathen. I had some advice for the officers, and afterwards knelt down, and had a very solemn time in prayer. My brother Samuel spoke very acceptably, and then gave them all a text-book, and we parted in love.”

From the Wilberforce, Mrs. Fry went on board a female convict ship, lying in the river. They found the unhappy women on the deck singing hymns; she gave them a “parting exhortation” before commencing their

long voyage, so rife with temptation and trial, and committing them to the keeping of the Great Protector of the Universe, bade them farewell.

Not long after this, an accident occurred, nearly attended with disastrous consequences: when nursing her youngest daughter in alarming illness, Mrs. Fry, in a moment of agitation and distress, inadvertently administered a lotion by mistake for a draught; medical help was at hand, and the proper measures successfully resorted to. In the anguish of her spirit, she flees to Him whom she had ever found "a very present help in trouble."

Upton, 5th Month 30th.—In the very depths of affliction, O Lord! I apply unto Thee, in faith, for help. Leave me not, nor forsake me in this awful time, and enable me to thank Thee for the mitigations permitted. Our dearest Louisa being again extremely ill, I in my hurry, gave her a wrong medicine of a poisonous nature: my fright at first was inexpressible. We sent for the doctor, who gave an emetic. It was thought that she did not suffer materially from it, but in addition to her other sufferings and afflicted state, it was bitter to me almost past expression; but I sought to endure, as seeing Him who is invisible. The conflict of my mind is great indeed; not I think so much in giving up this beloved one, if the Lord see meet to take her to Himself, into His kingdom, though it would be very hard to part, as I have perhaps too much encouraged her with the expectation of recovery. Still, she has had a long time of preparation; for many months past, she has, I know, doubted her living, and I do believe, that a

very precious work of grace has been going on in her heart, and through infinite wisdom, mercy, and love, she has, through a Saviour's blood, obtained pardon and reconciliation with God.

Permit me, gracious Lord ! in this deep emergency, to entreat Thee to save my beloved child with an everlasting salvation, and if it be Thy blessed will, grant her a little revival, that I may never have the weight of believing that her end was accelerated by my carelessness. Be very near to her, granting her Thy peace, and the joy of Thy salvation ; and be very near to help her beloved husband, whose tender care over her is wonderful. Keep also, merciful Lord ! Thy poor servant, from losing her faith or her power of mind in this close trial of faith and patience.

CHAPTER XXII

ANOTHER JOURNEY—ROTTERDAM—THE HAGUE—AMSTERDAM—BRE-
MEN—HAMBURG—COPENHAGEN—BERLIN—SILESIA—ILLNESS—
RETURN TO ENGLAND—RAMSGATE—UPTON LANE—LYNN—EARL-
HAM—WARLEY LODGE—WINTER AT HOME.

From the time of Mrs. Fry's return from her journey the preceding year, she had continually received communications from the Continent, urging her to visit places where she had not been, or to return and complete her work where she had already commenced it. When she heard of these openings for usefulness, her heart responded to the call. Her daughter, whose fearful illness had caused her such extreme anxiety, had nearly recovered its effects, and another daughter, who had passed the winter in Italy with her family, was again in England. Her home party was provided for, having arranged to spend the autumn at Ramsgate; whilst her beloved brother, Joseph John Gurney, offered her the great advantage of his society and support—he believing it his duty to visit several places on the Continent, for various religious and philanthropic purposes, especially, to impart the observations he had made during his lengthened tarriance in America and the West Indies, on slavery, and slave holding, to those potentates, who

still permitted this evil to exist in their dominions. Mrs. Fry shrunk from the great effort of leaving home, and encountering the fatigue of travelling, for her own sensations and many symptoms in her general health could but lead to the belief, that her life of exertion and effort had told irremediably upon her vital powers. But it was not because the shades of evening were gathering round her, that she would slacken her labours for the good of others. Whilst it was yet day she desired to work and accomplish all that her great Master might have for her to do, before "the night came, wherein no man can work."

Mr. Gurney took with him his daughter Anna,* and Mrs. Fry had for her special companion and caretaker, her niece, Elizabeth Gurney, an arrangement most acceptable, not only to her, but to her immediate family.

The travellers arrived at Rotterdam, July the 31st, 1841, and passed a tranquil Sabbath there. In the evening, they held a large Meeting in an apartment of the Hotel; the following day visited prisons; and on the 2nd of August proceeded to the Hague.

Returning a second time, they neither felt themselves nor were received as strangers. They again visited the prisons, and urged upon the proper authorities the means of remedying the evils existing there. The gracious reception given to themselves and the objects of their mission, by the Royal family, Mrs. Fry describes in a letter to her home circle.

"You will like to know that, through tender mercy, I was favoured to feel much rest, refreshment, and

* Afterwards Mrs. John Backhouse.

peace, at Rotterdam, and much evidence that I was in my right place. Our visits to the boy's prison at Rotterdam, and to the women's prison at Gouda, were highly interesting. I find a second visit to a place much better than a first. We had two meetings—one philanthropic, one religious—both well got through, and a large attendance. I felt in leaving the place much comfort and satisfaction.

“ When we arrived at the Hague, our kind friend Lady Disbrowe, (the wife of the British Minister), and Sir Alexander and Lady Malet, received us cordially. We divided our evening between Sir Edward Disbrowe and our hotel, having a party for us by accident in each place ; on the whole both passed off very well, and many appeared to be very glad to see us again. We sent our letters to the King from Prince Albert. On Sixth-day, a message came to desire that we would wait upon the King and Queen the next day, at half-past one o'clock, accompanied by Lady Disbrowe.

“ We remained with the King and Queen, and their daughter the Princess Sophia, about an hour. As rather an interesting event in my life, I mean to tell you particulars of this interview. Before we went, we had a solemn, short Meeting for worship, with our dear and valued friends of this town ; afterwards we prepared to go. I was decorated by my best garments outwardly, and I desired so to be clothed with better ornaments spiritually, as to render attractive that which I had to recommend. We all felt very weightily our serious engagement, as we had much to represent to the King respecting the West Indies, prisons, and religious education for the

people in his own country. The King, a lively, clever, perfect gentleman, not a large man, in regimentals ; the Queen (sister to the Emperor of Russia) a fine stately person, in full and rather beautiful morning dress of white ; the Princess much the same. After our presentation the King began easy and pleasant conversation with me, about my visiting prisons. I told him in a short lively manner the history of it ; he said, he heard I had so many children, how could I do it ? This I explained ; and mentioned how one of my daughters now helped me in the Patronage Society. He appeared much interested, as did the Queen. I then said, my brother had visited the West Indies, and would be glad to tell the King and Queen the result of his observations in these islands. This he did capitally, shewing the excellency of freedom, and its most happy results ; he represented, also, the sad effects of the Dutch enlisting soldiers on the Gold Coast, and how it led to evil and slavery, which so touched the King, that he said he meant to put a stop to it. I then began again, and most seriously laid before the king, the sad defect of having no religious education in their Government Schools, and the Bible not introduced. He said he really felt it ; but what could he do, when there was a law against it ? We then endeavoured to explain how we thought it might be obtained. Our very serious conversation was mixed with much cheerfulness. I felt helped to speak very boldly, yet respectfully ; so did my brother. I concluded by expressing my earnest desire that the King's reign might be marked by the prisons being so reformed, that punishment might become the means of

the reformation of criminals ; by the lower classes being religiously educated ; and by the slaves in their Colonies being liberated. The king then took me by the hand, and said he hoped God would bless me. I expressed my desire, that the blessing of the Almighty might rest on the King, Queen, their children, and their children's children. We gave them books, which they accepted kindly. It certainly was a very pleasant and satisfactory interview, that, I humbly trust, will not prove in vain in the Lord.

“ On Sixth-day, with my brother, I visited the Princess of Orange. We had open, free, pleasant communication on many important points. The same morning, I visited the Princess Frederic, sister to the King of Prussia, just out of her confinement. I found her like the other members of that superior family. My brother, also, had very satisfactory intercourse with the Princess of Orange. The Ministers of the Interior and of Finance have been very kind, and we hope and expect that real good will result. The Princess of Orange has a lovely little boy, about two months older than our Princess. The girls went to see him ; they accompanied me to the Princess Frederic, who wished to see them, from her knowledge of us through the Prussian Court.”

The 7th, they reached Amsterdam, where they remained four days, visiting the prisons and various public institutions, and holding meetings for philanthropic and religious objects.

The Lunatic Asylum they found in a deplorable condition. Among other miserable objects, one unhappy woman, unclothed, lay grovelling in straw. Whether

the look of compassion, or the voice, attracted her, cannot be known ; but she dragged herself, as nearly as her chains would admit, to her visitant, and endeavoured to reach her : the hand she desired to touch was yielded—she kissed it again and again, and burst into an agony of tears. Will any one venture to assert that this poor creature was past all touch of human feeling, or the reach of gentle control ?

It was a question, on leaving Amsterdam, whether to take the usual route to Bremen, or to go by Wilderhausen, over desolate country, by a shorter, but not so good a road. The one which was chosen proved extremely rough and fatiguing, in places the sand reaching to the axletree of the carriage ; scarcely a bird, or an insect, or any living thing, to be seen ; miserable accommodation by night, and wearisome travelling by day. Mrs. Fry became much indisposed, and scarcely able to proceed, when, in the middle of the last day's journey, a sudden jerk broke the mainspring of the carriage, but, happily, not far from a small inn, where rest and refreshment could be obtained. On Saturday, the 14th, they had the happiness of finding themselves in excellent quarters, in the pleasant town of Bremen. The early part of Sunday was tranquil, but in the evening there was a very large Meeting held in the Museum, a noble building near the Hotel. Long before the appointed hour, well-dressed persons proceeded to secure places. Several of the *pasteurs* were present. One of them at the close arose, and beautifully addressed the missionary brother and sister, expressing his desire, that what had passed might be blessed to the people, and that they

might be themselves blessed. To Mrs. Fry, he said—"Your name has long been to us a word of beauty." A Christian gentleman wrote to them afterwards—"Now I am more than convinced that you are sent to us by the Lord, to be and to become a great blessing, and a salt to our city." The following morning they went to see the prison. Bremen being a Hans Town, the address afterwards forwarded by Mrs. Fry and her brother to the authorities, necessarily varied, in some respects, from one intended for a sovereign power.

When the carriage came to the Hotel door for their departure, crowds of the lower classes surrounded it, wishing them a prosperous journey, "*bon voyage*," thanking them for the good meeting they had had the evening before, and begging for tracts; whilst numbers could not be persuaded to move till Mrs. Fry had shaken hands with them.

Their little transit across the Elbe would have been delightful with a glorious setting sun, but for a mob of persons returning from Harburgh market, who having discovered Mrs. Fry, and her tract bag, so pressed upon her that she was glad to take refuge in the carriage, whilst their clever and devoted courier (François) harangued the people on his lady's various excellencies, but carefully prevented their approach. The time at Harburgh was extremely full—work was ready for them before their arrival. There she found Miss Sieveking, with whom she had long communicated, and whose active energy had been the means of establishing an association, termed the "Society of the Ladies' Committee," in the well-being of which Mrs. Fry was deeply

interested. In the foundation of this Society for "Succouring and Nursing the Sick and Helpless Poor," various objects were had in view. The Committee designed to establish "District Visiting," by which the wants and peculiar circumstances of the indigent might be made known to those able and willing to relieve them: it specially aimed at providing the sick poor with medicine, medical attendance, nurses, and other temporal relief, whilst the most earnest attention was paid to the spiritual necessities of this class, and prayer and reading formed a specified part of the visitor's duties. It also strove to find employment for such as were out of work, by furnishing them with implements and materials for continuing their various trades, for which they were remunerated at the average rate of wages in Hamburg and the neighbourhood. Connected with this association is an Hospital for children, whether orphans or the children of those who from having large families, crowded dwellings, or other causes, are unable to take such measures as are conducive to their restoration to health. The superintendence of this "Children Hospital," is in the hands of Deaconesses, who also visit and nurse the poor at their own houses, and are employed in testing the merits, and inquiring into the necessities of such applicants as desire to be placed on the books of the Society. Each family thus enrolled is visited *at least weekly*, and the peculiarities, illness, wants, with remarks upon each, is reported by the deaconess or visitor to the Committee. It is an invariable rule of the Society, that all members of it, should as far as possible themselves personally visit the poor, and individually succour them

temporally and spiritually. It should be understood that a distinction is drawn in favour of the honest and industrious poor over those who are wilfully idle and guilty.

Much difficulty in obtaining work for the poor is often experienced, even when they are able and willing to do it. The plan pursued, is to employ such mechanics as are without work, or the means of obtaining it, in working for those poor persons under the care of the Society, who are unable to obtain the articles they require ; for instance, a poor shoemaker makes shoes, at the expense of the Society, to be given or sold at reduced prices. Women work for the disabled, or nurse the sick and helpless, whilst an infirm aged upholsterer quilts the sea-grass mattresses for those who require them.

In speaking of the public institutions of Hamburg, which came under Mrs. Fry's notice, it will be necessary to bear in mind the peculiar constitution of all public bodies there, in common with the other Hans Towns ; generally, under a Board of control, constituted of members elected much on the same system as the directors of Insurance and other companies in England ; individuals retiring in rotation from year to year, and new persons nominated in their places, thus bringing new minds and fresh thought to bear upon the improvement of the system, so that, whilst new intellect is continually evolved *within* each body, there still is ever an equalizing and conservative spirit pervading the whole, from the presence of the old and experienced members of the Board, who are hence always in a larger proportion than those *recently* elected. It must be remembered, too,

that the Boards, thus individually changing, and yet as bodies always remaining, are elected from the whole class of burghers, of which the wealthier part of the population of the Hans Towns consists; and it is a beautiful and interesting phenomenon, to contemplate these unsalaried men of business devoting time, money, talent, and thought, to objects so conducive to the moral and physical improvement of their fellow-creatures; self-constituted into their guardians, ameliorators, and friends; bound by no compulsory engagements, but on the principle of faith and love, each in his own peculiar self-denial, fulfilling the law of charity to his poorer neighbour. Thus, through the whole mass of wealthier citizens, there exists a knowledge and experience of the condition and wants of the poor, of which, we in England can form no adequate idea. To the effect of the government of these boards on the public institutions, and to that so generally diffused spirit of earnest helpful love, are to be attributed much of the beauty and wisdom of their internal management, which cannot fail to strike the mind, as it arrested the attention of Mrs. Fry. The many infant schools which exist in Hamburg are similarly conducted. The wives, daughters and sisters of the members of the board, take a strong personal interest in them; they examine, direct, in many cases themselves teach the children, which supersedes the necessity, as in other institutions, for committees or female visitors. In these schools, the infants remain all day, having there the mid-day meal, and being provided with little beds, for the mid-day sleep. The average rate of payment is 8d. per week, and it is a remarkable feature

in the condition of the lower orders in Germany, that they rarely, if ever, shrink from the burden of this payment, though under cases of great poverty it is remitted by the Board.

The "*Orphan Asylum*" is regulated on the same principles, and receives children who have been deprived of their natural protectors gratuitously ; they are carefully brought up until of an age to be apprenticed to a trade, or sent to service, as circumstances or inclination dictate. Since the fire at Hamburg this institution has been placed some way out of the town ; and it may be here remarked, that throughout the city, the healthiest situations are invariably chosen for all charitable institutions.

Mrs. Fry inspected another establishment of a nature deeply instructive, almost sublime in the objects it has in view, and the means used for their attainment. This is the Asylum known by the name of the "*Rauhhaus*," because at its foundation in 1833, Herr Wichern led his first band of young men and boys into a small Thatched-house, which has formed the *nucleus* of a colony, and has still preserved its original and accidental name. At its establishment, the great object of the founder Wichern was to form a species of house of reformation for children from the earliest age to their eighteenth or twentieth year ; chiefly children whose parents and instructors had hitherto laboured in vain on their behalf, or whose neglected education had led them to the commission of crime, or whose moral and spiritual life had been perilled by the contamination of vice in their families and neighbourhood. The design became gradually enlarged, whilst the general point remained the

same. This Refuge, unconnected in any way with the police, thus offered its services of helpful love, aiming at the restoration of such youths to society and the church of Christ, by the mere effect of the Gospel on the heart, and the winning example before them of a virtuous and industrious life. The children labour in a variety of workshops built in the colony, (and chiefly by themselves,) shoemakers, tailors, joiners, bakers, printers, bookbinders, etc. ; they are besides engaged in spinning and in agricultural and garden work; one point aimed at, being to enable each individual as far as possible to provide every necessary for himself. Gradually from the first thatched house, the "Rauh-haus" has been increasing in size. The old cottage remains, and around it have been grouped eleven other houses, which are clustered about a central hall for prayer, the whole situated in an extensive garden, and surrounded by many acres of arable land. Every year a new house has been added, and fresh members admitted into a participation of like advantages.

The great aim of this institution is the restoration of the fallen ; but there is another object held constantly in view ; raising up within the church young men, who shall be strong in faith, active in charity, and habituated to guiding and directing the youthful mind. The adoption of a *family* life in this institution, in lieu of a more generally scholastic, or even military one, has been found of the greatest utility, forming the character to domestic life, and the fulfilment of family charities, without destroying individuality, or healthy self-dependence. Thus, at the "Rauh-haus," the inmates are divided into groups

of twelve, living together, each in one of the little houses; they share their meals, pleasures, instructions, play, and daily labour, meeting only in the central hall for morning and evening prayers. Each of these families is under the superintendence of young men, called "Brethren of the Rauh-haus," who in fact partake of everything with their families. And this brings us to a most important and valuable part of this truly Church regenerating society.

The "*Brotherhood of the Rauh-haus*" is now in fact a training school for labourers in home missions; it is an elementary regiment, so to speak, of an active militia to the church of Christ, who after serving a time of apprenticeship as the heads of their small families in the "Rauh-haus," it is hoped will fix on some interior mission in the church, and there by pure conduct and earnest will to serve the cause of God and to propagate His faith, form another regenerating nucleus "in the whole temple knit together," which is truly of God and from above. Each of these heads of the "Rauh-haus" families in entering the institution must prove himself thoroughly acquainted with some one trade or profession; and these Brethren (whom you might indeed call masters) themselves, during the space of from two to four years, go through a theoretical and practical course of instruction. They are of the same class, operatives, all desirous of giving themselves to the service of God in His church, by such orderly and free exercise of love, "for the building up the kingdom of God both in Church and State, in all such places where the Church and State have hitherto lacked the powers needful for the work," as the leadings

of Providence and the individual circumstances of each point out. Some have been employed in the foundation of other similar institutions in the northern part of Germany, in the German provinces on the Baltic, and even in France and Sweden. Others amongst them are occupied in the care and visiting of prisoners, and in various works of Christian activity.

Such is the bond of sacred love which pervades the whole "Rauh-haus" establishment, an earnest, improving, regenerating training up of young minds, by the beautiful examples of holy industry and loving faith, by the constraining power of the love of Christ in the Gospel, acting as an expulsive force in the heart, and driving thence the accumulated dregs of original and contracted transgression, filling up the vacuum with holy activity and earnest desires for a Christian life here and hereafter.

Connected with the "Children's" and the "Brethren's" institutions, are the "*Printing-office*" and the "*Agency*," subservient to the former, and which may indeed be considered as a ministering help towards their support, otherwise dependent on voluntary contributions.

The *Printing-office* employs about twenty persons, its first object being the employment of a rather superior class of the inmates of the "Rauh-haus." Twice a month is published at the Agency of the Rauh-haus, and in the Printing-office there,* a newspaper called the "Fliegende Blätter," or Flying Leaves, which reports the

* Fliegende Blätter Berichte über Vereine Austallen kurz alle Bestrelieregen auf den Gebrete der *innern Mission Agenter des Rauhere Hauhes*, Horn bei Hamburg, 1845, 1848.

state of Christian and benevolent institutions, and the success of the interior missions of the Church, and is of much interest and general instruction.

The "Agency" comprises in fact, an independent *publishing establishment* for the publication of such works as belong to the literature of the people ; a *bookbinders'* shop also employs twelve workmen under a master ; lithography in colours, and a *foundry for stereotype* ; it also furnishes *woodcuts*. This whole business is connected with the suitable employment of the children-pupils.

Whilst prisons and public institutions occupied the mornings, the evenings were devoted by Mrs. Fry and her party to social intercourse, where subjects of benevolence or religion were discussed, or to appointed Meetings for worship. They held two of this nature at Hamburgh, the last, a very large one, took place in the Assembly Room, a splendid apartment fully lighted and well arranged. Many of the authorities and principal inhabitants of the place were present, the English Chargé d'Affaires, the French Chargé d'Affaires, their friend Colonel F——, and many others. They were conducted into the Meeting by the Syndic Sieveking, an eminently good man, who led them to a small platform. Mrs. Fry rose to explain her experience in prisons, and the principles upon which she had acted ; the results of Gospel truth being taught, Christian kindness, change of habit, and many similar topics ; she then spoke of the institutions of their city, and all she had remarked in them of a desirable or an undesirable nature. Mr. Gurney addressed the assembly, upon what he had seen in the West Indies, abolition of slavery, religious liberty, &c. Great atten-

tion was paid, and the interpretation was excellent. At the conclusion, about fifty of their friends attended them to their apartment, when after partaking of refreshments, they parted with regret and affection on all sides.

The following afternoon saw them embarked on the Baltic; they had a brilliant moonlight night, and pleasant voyage to Copenhagen, where they remained a week.

On board the packet leaving Copenhagen, 8th Month, 30th.—

MY DEAREST HUSBAND AND CHILDREN,

We have been favoured to leave Denmark with peaceful minds, having endeavoured to fulfil our mission as ability has been granted us; a more important one, or a more interesting one, I think I never was called into. On First-day morning, when we arrived in the harbour at Copenhagen, we were met by Peter Browne the Secretary to the English Legation, to inform us that the Queen had engaged for us apartments in the Hotel Royal. The appearance of the Hotel was, I should think, like the arrangements of one of our first-rate Hotels about a hundred years ago.

The next morning the Queen came to town, and we had a very pleasant and satisfactory interview with her; she certainly is a most delightful woman, as well as a truly Christian and devoted character: she is also lovely in person, and quite the Queen in appearance. She took me in her carriage to her infant school; it really was beautiful to see her surrounded by the little children, and to hear her translating what I wished to say to them. After staying with her about two hours, we

returned to our Hotel ; and that evening took a drive to the beautiful Palace of Fredericksburgh in a most lovely situation, the beauties of land and sea combined, with fine forest trees around it. The following morning we regularly began our prison visiting ; very sad scenes we witnessed in some of them. We saw hundreds of persons confined for life in melancholy places ; but what occupied our most particular attention, was the state of the persecuted Christians. We found Baptist ministers, excellent men, in one of the prisons, and that many others of this sect suffered much in this country, for there is hardly any religious tolerance. It produces the most flattening religious influence, I think more marked than in Roman Catholic countries. We were much devoted to this service of visiting prisons. Third and Fourth days, we received various persons in the evenings, but saw as yet but few Danes. On Fourth-day we dined at Sir Henry Watkin Wynn's, our ambassador, and here we became acquainted with several persons ; they live quite in the country, and we saw the true Danish country-house and gardens. The King and Queen were kind enough to invite us all to dine at their palace in the country on Fifth-day ; this was a very serious occasion, as we had so much to lay before the King—slavery in the West Indies—the condition of the persecuted Christians here—and the sad state of the prisons. I was in spirit so weighed down with the importance of the occasion, that I hardly could enjoy the beautiful scene. We arrived about a quarter past three o'clock ; the Queen met us with the utmost kindness and condescension, and took us a walk in their lovely grounds, which are open to the

public. We had much interesting conversation, between French and English, and made ourselves understood. When our walk was finished, we were shown into the drawing-room to the King, who met us very courteously ; several were there in attendance. Dinner was soon announced : imagine me, the King on one side, and the Queen on the other, and only my poor French to depend upon ; but I did my best to turn the time to account. At dinner we found the fruit on the table ; first we had soup of the country, secondly, melons, thirdly, yams, anchovies, cavia, bread and butter and butter and radishes, then meat, then puddings, then fish, then chickens, then game, and so on. The fashion was to touch glasses ; no drinking healths. The King and Queen touched my glass on both sides : when dinner was over we all rose and went out together. The afternoon was very entertaining ; the King and Queen took us to the drawing-room window, where we were to see a large school of orphans, protégés of the Queen. I took advantage of this opportunity, and laid the state of the prisons before the King, telling him at the same time, that I had a petition for him which I meant to make before leaving the palace. After an amusing time with the poor children, my brother Joseph withdrew with the King into a private room, where for about an hour he gave him his attention, whilst he thoroughly enlarged upon the state of their West India Islands. I stayed with the Queen ; but after awhile went in to them, and did entreat the King for the poor Baptists in prison, and for religious toleration. I did my best, in few words, to express my mind, and very strongly I did it. I gave also Luther's

sentiments upon the subject. We slept at our friends the Brownes', a beautiful place by the sea-side. An agreeable serious gentleman, Julius Schesteed, was our interpreter, and remained with us, helping us to prepare our document for the King; he has become our constant companion, and is now with us in the packet, going to Lübeck, to interpret for us there. On Seventh-day one of our fullest days, we drove into the country to visit the King's sister, the Landgravine of Hesse Cassel, the Prince her husband brother to the Duchess of Cambridge, and the lovely Princesses her daughters. We endeavoured to turn these visits to account, by our conversation. In the evening, we held one of our very large Meetings, I may say a splendid one, as to the company, room, &c. I trust that we were both so helped to speak the truth in love on various and very important subjects, as to assist the causes nearest our hearts, for our poor fellow mortals. It did not appear desirable to allude to the persecuted Christians; as we had laid their case before the King, we might have done harm by it; but I feel the way in which Protestant Europe is persecuting, to be a subject that cannot and must not be allowed to rest.

Where we now are, the same old Lutherans whom we found persecuted in Prussia are persecuting others. The way in which ceremonies are depended upon is wonderful; no person is allowed to fill any office civilly or religiously, until confirmed, not even to marry; and when once confirmed, we hear that it leads to a feeling of such security spiritually, that they think themselves at liberty to do as they like; sadly numerous are the instances of moral fall! These very weighty subjects so deeply oc-

cupying my attention, and being separated from so many beloved ones, prevent the lively enjoyment I should otherwise feel in some of the scenes we pass through ; but I see this to be well, and in the right ordering of Providence. I have the kindest attendants and everything to make me comfortable.

On First-day morning, we had a very interesting Meeting with the poor Baptists. We then again went into the country, to lay all our statements before the King and Queen. I read the one about the prisons and the persecuted Christians ; and my brother read the one about the West Indies ; we had had them translated into Danish, for the King to read at the same time. After pressing these things as strongly as we felt right, we expressed our religious concern and desires for the King and Queen. I read a little to them in one of Paul's Epistles ; after that I felt that I must commit them and these important causes to Him who can alone touch the heart. We had a very handsome luncheon, when I was again seated between the King and Queen. I may say their kindness was very great to me.

On Second-day morning, we formed a Society for attending to poor prisoners—gentlemen and ladies ; and then paid a most delightful farewell religious visit to the Queen and Princess. I forgot to mention a very interesting visit to the Queen Dowager.

We arrived at Lübeck, after a calm voyage ; but I do not like nights in steam-packets. I believe that we were sent to Copenhagen for a purpose. May our unworthy labours be blessed to the liberation of many captives, spiritually and temporally !

May the God of peace be near to all of you and to us,
as our continual Keeper and Helper.

Farewell, in most tender and near love to all.

Yours indeed, and in truth,

ELIZABETH FRY.

From Hamburg, by Minden and Pyrmont, they pursued their way to Hanover. A day of very hard travelling brought them to Magdeburgh, and a second, by railroad diverging to visit Wittenburg, to Berlin. Numerous objects awaited their attention in that city, not the less weighty to Mrs. Fry, from having been there before and made so many acquaintances, besides the additional interest she felt in Institutions already known to her.

The state of the prisons was of course her chief object of attention. Mrs. Fry and Mr. Gurney prepared recommendations to lay before General Thile, Minister of the Royal House, embodying their observations and opinions, and urging the necessity of many alterations before real improvement could be effected. The Prussian Royal Family were at the time in Silesia: thither the travellers had been invited to follow them, for there were those amongst them who considered that the retirement and tranquillity of that place would be well suited for the consideration of Mrs. Fry's objects. It was not a light prospect to Mrs. Fry; she had naturally the fear of man deeply implanted in her character. Religion had changed its direction, but not eradicated it. It was no longer for herself that she was afraid; it was for the cause sake to which her heart was given, for

amongst these royal and noble personages she dreaded in either herself or her companions, anything, that might not adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour ; but she soon discovered that she had come amongst Christians, many of them devoted as herself, to the service of their Maker. Amongst the members of the House of Brandenburg, she found many intellectual and excellent persons ; in the noble head of that royal House, one, who with a spirit indomitable as the great Frederick's, showed equal moral courage in carrying out all that he believed likely to conduce to the temporal and eternal good of his subjects, as his predecessor had displayed in self-aggrandisement and war. In the beautiful retirement of the Reisenberg, she saw Royalty retaining all the grace and finish that appertains to it, but freed from the encumbrance of a city court. Her reception was more than kind ; honoured for her "works' sake," she found herself by all and on all occasions, treated with Christian affection and consideration.

No record of this time, singular and important as it was, exists of her own writing, but in a letter to her grandchildren. The deficiency is however well supplied from the journal of one of her companions.

It was on the 10th of September that the party arrived at Hirschberg, a beautiful little village, inhabited by a clean and very respectable class of peasantry. It is situated about eight miles from the Royal residences of Erdmansdorf, Fischbach, and Schildau ; and is nearly equi-distant from Buchwald, the home of the Countess Reden, of whose Christian character and benevolence Mrs. Fry had often before heard. The King and Queen

were at that time residing at Erdmansdorf. At Fischbach lived Prince and Princess William (the uncle and aunt of the Queen), with their sons Prince Waldemar and Prince Adelbert, and their daughter Princess Mary, now Queen of Bavaria. Prince Charles, brother of the King, was also on a visit at Fischbach. The sister of the King and her husband, Prince and Princess Frederic of the Netherlands, with their daughter Princess Louisa, were then residing at Schildau.

To many of the Royal family, Mrs. Fry had been presented the previous year, at Berlin, and the Princess Frederic, of the Netherlands, she had visited at her own beautiful home, near the Hague, some time before. It was a lovely spot, in which Mrs. Fry now found her tent pitched for a while. Of its rare beauty she had heard much, and from a painting of Schloss Fischbach, presented to her by Princess William, during her stay at Berlin, she had formed some idea of the wild mountainous scenery and picturesque loveliness of the neighbourhood. To a mere passing traveller there was much to delight and to please; but even still more of deep interest to those who could in any degree enter into the Royal domestic circles there assembled, and this, was Mrs. Fry privileged to do, with much enjoyment, and an earnest desire to be permitted to be useful and faithful in all her intercourse with them. To enable her to be more accessible to the opportunities thus furnished, the pleasant little Goldenstern Hotel in the village of Schmiedeberg, had been exchanged for the equally agreeable and commodious inn at Hirschberg. The mornings were usually passed in writing, and preparing

important documents on the Prison, Slavery, and other questions ; and the afternoons were commonly spent in some visit to one of the palaces, which had been previously arranged. The Sunday was a day replete with interest. In the early part of it, it was necessary to finish an address to the King on Religious Toleration, and on matters connected with Prisons.

Mrs. Fry was at that time suffering from great debility and fatigue ; but a power not her own seemed granted her to rise above her infirmities, and meet the various duties, which on that Sabbath were given her to fulfil. It is only those who held intimate communication with her at these times, who can in any measure understand the extreme nervousness of her constitution on the one hand, or on the other, the amount of strength granted her—granted doubtless in answer to fervent constant prayer, offered to the very moment of her entering a large assembly, or sitting down to commence some document, or engage in some important conversation. She prayed that in nothing might she seek herself, in *all* Christ Jesus ; and that all which He laid upon her for His glory, and the good of her fellow creatures, she might rightly and faithfully perform. Such was the spirit in which that Sabbath morning found her. Marvellously were her prayers answered :—most remarkably was her strength upheld.

The papers which she and her brother, Joseph John Gurney, had prepared for the King, were again perused during the drive to Princess William's Palace, which they reached about one o'clock, having called on the way at Buchwald for the excellent Countess, whose ever-ready

aid was given to support and help her, and who, in the present instance, interpreted Mrs. Fry's words for the Princess. Many other ladies were assembled at the Palace, and after some conversation of a general nature, every one remained in silence to listen to what she might have to say to them. This opportunity of addressing Gospel truth to such a company, she dared not pass by ; every word was listened to, every expression of her countenance watched, during her discourse. She spoke of the importance of upholding a religious standard in the world ; of making a final and decisive choice in these important matters ; of taking Christ as the only portion, and rejecting all besides. She impressed upon her hearers the duties incumbent on persons of a higher class of using their influence with others for good, and not for evil. She spoke of the privilege of possessing such means of usefulness. Very solemnly she urged upon all heads of large establishments the vast amount of responsibility entrusted to them ; the prevention of crime, and the good to be derived even by silent example ; still more by the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures to the assembled family. She added an account of the experience of many prisoners, as to the blessings of being placed in professedly religious families, and the awful temptations presented to the servants of those who take no care for their souls, and are neglecting their eternal interests. Many tears were shed on this occasion, and all seemed anxious to share her sympathy and love.

During her stay in Silesia, Elizabeth Fry had opportunities of intercourse with the poor Tyrolese, who hav-

ing fled from their native Zillerthal, on account of the religious persecution which they endured from the Austrian Government, had thrown themselves under the protection of the late King of Prussia, and by him had been placed under the care of the Countess Reden, who had proved herself indeed a nursing mother to them. It will be necessary to take a hasty review of the history of these Zillerthalians, in order rightly to estimate the deep interest excited in Mrs. Fry's mind in their behalf. For much information on the subject, acknowledgments are due to an able article in the 'Quarterly Review,' of June 1839, as well as other important and interesting documents.

On the high road between Saltzburgh and Innesbruck, after advancing more than two-thirds of the way, there lies between two majestic masses of rock, a wide and lovely valley. It is watered by a clear stream, which issuing from the Southern Alps, falls into the Inn a little below Strauss. Very nearly in the middle of the valley, stands the town of Zill, the seat of a Landgericht, and the residence of a dean. The locality presents alternately rich meadows and heavy arable land; and here and there are dotted about villages and pretty white cottages, farm-houses, chapels and churches with lofty towers and spires. The population, amounting to from 15,000 to 16,000 souls, obtain their living chiefly by agriculture and the rearing of cattle. The poorer classes emigrate yearly to Styria and Carinthia, where they are employed in felling trees, and in some of the manufactories of the country. Extreme poverty is nowhere to be found, and a common beggar is a rarity. The people

are strong, healthy, and well made, and are chiefly distinguishable by extreme good-nature and honest simplicity. Their religion was without any exception (until a few years back) Roman Catholic; and the ecclesiastical jurisdiction lay between the bishops of Brisen and Saltzburg. In this valley, and amongst this simple people, did Protestantism suddenly appear. Not a single Protestant place of worship could be found for many miles around. A century before, the Archbishop of Saltzburg and his soldiers had crushed in that pleasant land the simple worship of Almighty God, which they deemed heresy, by the strong arm of power, and had robbed every Protestant of his possessions, driving them into perpetual exile. But in their haste to expel the heretics, they had left the cause of heresy behind—their Bibles and other religious books: thus it came to pass that, after many years the good seed again sprung up, and took deep root in the hearts of the Zillerthalians. Bound up with some of the old Bibles, was the Augsburg confession of faith. The Zillerthalians read, learnt, applied to themselves the fruits of their study. They found in this compendium of Protestant doctrine a uniform system; they became of one mind, and were enabled to give a clear answer to their enemies. Many amongst their number, in their yearly migrations, visited Bavaria, and formed acquaintances among the Protestants there; they returned home with their faith strengthened, and their knowledge enlarged, and in possession of fresh books on these subjects. They began to scruple assisting at the celebration of mass, or paying homage to images, and some determined to take legal steps for a

public profession of Protestantism. The storm long gathering, now burst with fury on their heads. The "six weeks' instruction" in Popish doctrines, necessary by law in Austria before any person leaves the pale of the Romish church, on the plea of preventing any one from changing their religion in ignorance, was *denied* them!—an unworthy shuffle, a mean trick of might against right, as by the edict of Joseph, the instruction is dependant *solely* on the will of him who wishes to abjure Popery. This gross injustice, however, neither shook the resolution of the applicants, nor prevented others from imitating their example. On the arrival of the late Emperor Francis in the Tyrol, he determined on personally informing himself of their wrongs and their wishes. Though most amiable and courteous to their deputation, this interview with their Emperor in nowise improved their condition. Doubtless the keepers of the royal conscience, exercised their influence not in vain. They were allowed no place of assembly, were compelled to send their children to the Romish priest for baptism, (who claimed them as part of his flock,) and were plunged into the greatest difficulties, and exposed to all sorts of petty vexations, as well as violations of their consciences. The only answer they could obtain to their complaints, was a letter from Vienna, dated April 2, 1834, informing them that the Government saw no reason for acceding to their request; but that if they wished to secede from the Roman Catholic Church, they might migrate to some province of the empire in which a Protestant congregation existed. Determined, however, if driven from their homes, that they would go to

some country where they might enjoy the free exercise of their religion, they applied for passports to leave the Austrian dominions; but this privilege of voluntary exile was denied them. In the course of about two years, however, an ungracious permission for so doing was accorded them, in the form of a command to leave Austria within four months. The late King of Prussia had warmly sympathized in their sorrows, and at this juncture sent from Berlin his chaplain Dr. Strauss, to Vienna, to entreat from Prince Metternich, permission for the emigration of the Zillerthalians into Prussia, as he was willing to receive them all. About the time that the royal chaplain left Berlin on his embassy of mercy, arrived there Johann Fleidl, the Zillerthalian deputy, with a petition drawn up by himself, on behalf of his fellow sufferers.

Whilst Fleidl was thus urging his suit at Berlin, Dr. Strauss was successfully advocating the same cause at Vienna. The Austrian ministers, ashamed of their eight years' perfidy and injustice, consented to all that was proposed. The Zillerthalians hastened to complete their preparations; and fourteen days before the expiration of the four months the first division of the wanderers commenced their journey, old age and infancy, manhood and gentle woman, alike leaving their beloved homes, and turning their faces to the asylum opened for them by the compassion of their noble protector. Very touching was the detail of their pilgrimage, most affecting and instructive their patience, their courage, their simple faith. Their new home lay in the domain of Ermansdorf, where each obtained a house and farm suitable to his means,

and his former position in the Tyrol. The colony itself has received the name of their old home, Zillerthal. The Countess of Reden was appointed to attend to their necessities. She had their cottages built in the true Swiss style, with large balconies and long roofs; established for them schools, and in every possible way employed and instructed them. Ever thoughtful of their interests, the Countess invited them to come to Buchwald that sabbath evening to receive encouragement and comfort from Mrs. Fry, she having expressed her wish to hold with them some communication in Christian love. The King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family were present at the service, and before the evening closed Mrs. Fry had much close and heart-searching intercourse with them. At length arrived the exiles from Zillerthal, forming a curious and picturesque group, dressed in the costume of their country; both men and women in the dark green cloth clothes, and high-pointed hats, many of the latter ornamented with garlands and nosegays of flowers. A long table was placed at one end of the room at which the Zillerthalians sat, and in front of which was a Moravian brother, for whom the good Countess had sent forty miles to act as interpreter. On the right hand of the table were seated the Royal family and others, and many persons stood crowding round the door. It would be scarcely possible to describe the deep interest of that whole group, or the solemn silence which prevailed when Mrs. Fry began to speak.

After Mr. Gurney had in a few words prepared the way for her, she rose with much solemnity and earnest-

ness. Never did she address any assembly more beautifully, with more unction, or more truly from the depths of her heart, and no audience could have given more profound attention to every word she uttered. She invited them all to a close dependence upon Jesus Christ, and urged a full, firm, and constant trust in Him as their Lord and their Saviour, their King and their God.

With her usual tact and power, each individual, each class present seemed included in her address. It was the first occasion on which she had seen the King since his accession to the throne, and she knew too that it was the first time of his meeting many there present, as their sovereign. Her words of sympathy to him, on the death of his father, and her estimate of his present important position in Europe, which she spoke for herself, as well as for those about her, were beautifully adapted to the occasion. Mr. Gurney added a few words; afterwards a hymn was sung, led by the Moravian Brethren; and the Tyrolese departed. Every one flocked around her with a word of love or kindness, but none expressed more interest or more gratitude than the King himself.

The following day the travellers dined at Fischbach, where she again met the King, and then came the leave-taking, always so sad when the probabilities of life afford little expectation of meeting again on this side the eternal world.

The history here becomes almost too mournful to proceed. Mr. Gurney was earnestly anxious to return to England by a certain day, only to be accomplished by rapid travelling. Such fatigue, though with every alleviation and indulgence, was more than his sister's failing

health could bear. Sorrowful was the letter she wrote to her family from Cassel, dated the 26th of September.

MY MOST TENDERLY BELOVED HUSBAND & CHILDREN,

I am glad, and I trust thankful, to be so far on our way homewards, and I hope and expect that we may this day week have the inexpressible consolation of being once more in England; my longings for it are almost inexpressible, and I have to pray and seek after faith and patience not to be too anxious, or in too great a hurry. I have continued very far from well, with latterly a considerable stiffness in my limbs, so that I am obliged to be assisted to walk up stairs, and helped into the carriage, sometimes by one or two men. I might have had the same attack at home; but one thing is certain, we may fully trust in our Heavenly Father, who is constantly protecting us under the wing of His love, and who knows what is best for us. I have sometimes thought that after being so helped on my way, from the palace to the prison, it was likely that the poor instrument should need a little further refining and purifying, for our works are to be tried as by fire. I have very earnestly desired not to repine, or to be unwilling to drink the cup that may be given me to drink. We travel with six horses to make the greatest speed home. I have a board in the carriage, so that when your uncle and Anna are outside, I can quite rest and make a real sofa of it, when I need it, which I do for one or two stages in the day. Mary and François are very attentive and kind; indeed, how differently am I

cared for to many poor missionaries. I wish you to feel for me, but not to be too anxious about me; commit me entirely to Him who only knows what is best for me. Your aunt Elizabeth's letter was very seasonable and acceptable. I wish her and all my children to know how it is with me, for I need their sympathy and prayers, at the same time that I feel the best help to be near, and the power that says, "Thus far shall thou go, and no further." Often in my very wakeful and at times distressing nights, a sweet peace comes over me to calm my troubled spirit. We hear from newspapers, that the poor Baptists in Copenhagen are to be released from prison, a small sum being paid by way of fine. What a comfort! and the poor Lutherans in Prussia say they are now so well off, that they do not wish us to ask for any more liberty for them of the King.

I am indeed yours most faithfully and lovingly,

ELIZABETH FRY.

On the 2nd of October the travellers landed at Dover; there Mr. Fry met them, little prepared for the melancholy condition in which his wife was to be brought back to him, almost unable to move, her limbs stiff and swollen, and her power of eating and sleeping nearly gone: with difficulty he conveyed her to Ramsgate, where her eldest daughter awaited her; and there she remained till she could be removed without material suffering. Her son William was at that time residing at Upton Lane, whilst his own dwelling, (Manor House) was undergoing some alterations. She stayed a few days with him and his family, and then, with difficulty

travelled into Norfolk, where for many reasons, she was particularly anxious to be. But her loving grateful spirit prevailed over all her trials and sufferings. She could not bear it said that the grievous fatigue of this hurried journey had aggravated her illness. She recounts her mercies but ignores her pains.

From the Bank House, at Lynn, she writes on the 21st of October.

“At Ramsgate, I met with the utmost love and kindness, constant and faithful care, which were very useful to me until the time of my departure. My visit to Upton Lane, to our dearest William and Julia, has really been cheering to my heart ; the day appears come, that my beloved children for whom I have passed through such deep travail of spirit, and for whom I have exercised such tender care, and felt such wonderful love, are to take care of me ; indeed, their kindness has been delightful and very comforting, quite enlivening and consoling. I see in this an advantage in coming home so broken in health, I have fallen upon them for care, first at Ramsgate, then at Upton Lane, ministering to my wants, in the kindest way, Katherine doing all she can for me ; and now Frank and Rachel are abundantly kind. I already feel better for their care over me, and that my suffering is more than made up to me, by the tender love and sweetness it has drawn forth from my most beloved ones.

“I yesterday received a letter from my husband, saying, that my dearest brother Joseph was married to Eliza P. Kirkbride, on Fifth-day the 21st. On the morning of their marriage, my heart was poured forth in

prayers and tears on their behalf, that the blessing of the Most High might rest upon them."

From Lynn Mrs. Fry was moved to Earlham, and passed a Sabbath with her brother Joseph John Gurney and his bride; thence she went to Warley Lodge, at that time the residence of her eldest son, and soon afterwards returned home."

CHAPTER XXIII.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CONTINENT—THE KING OF PRUSSIA IN ENGLAND—SALE AT THE MANSION HOUSE—LETTER TO HER ELDEST SON—AUTUMN AT CROMER—FISHERMAN'S READING-ROOM—RETURN BY WEST NORFOLK TO UPTON LANE—DEATH OF A GRANDDAUGHTER—FUNERAL—LAST VISIT TO FRANCE, 1843—FEMALE PRISON AT CLERMONT-EN-OISE—PARIS—GUIZOT—THE DUCHESS D'ORLEANS—GREEKS—RETURN HOME.

THE infirm state of Elizabeth Fry's health precluded at this period much active exertion ; but her time was fully occupied, and her interest not at all diminished in those subjects to which she had so long devoted her attention. Her correspondence was extensive, both at home and abroad—the latter especially, much of it arising from her late journeys on the Continent. She had the happiness of hearing of the beneficial results of her exertions in different places ; from others, she received details of the obstacles which had occurred to delay or preclude improvement.

From her beloved and valued friend, the Countess Reden, she received heart-cheering communications ; the King of Prussia having urged upon General Thile, Minister of the Royal House, the necessity of effecting various reforms in prisons.

A few weeks later, a delightful account came from the Pasteur Fliedner, chaplain to the prison at Jauer, of the

improvement amongst the prisoners. A hundred and three Bibles, and a hundred and twelve Prayer Books, had been purchased by them, at the price of much self-denial, out of their small earnings, besides many copies of the Scriptures and tracts having been distributed amongst them.

Mrs. Fry had almost endless letters, asking for assistance or advice, and requiring more time and thought than she had power to give. The liberality of her brothers, and some of her other relatives, enabled her to administer to the claims and distresses of many persons, in a manner which would have been otherwise impossible. She was at this period much with her own family, welcoming them to Upton Lane, or paying little visits at their respective houses. A small but commodious close carriage, given to her by her faithful brother Joseph John Gurney, and kept for her own particular use, afforded her the power of moving easily about, and greatly added to the comfort of her declining years.

Sir John Pirie, the preceding autumn, had been elected Lord Mayor of London. Lady Pirie had been one of Mrs. Fry's most indefatigable helpers in Newgate, and in all her public objects. Sir John and she, being both persons eminently devoted to the service of God and the good of their fellow men, resolved to use their year of power in doing everything within their reach to benefit others, and exalt the cause of truth and righteousness on earth. Amongst other things, they were bent upon assisting the cause of prison reform ; and in their partial kindness looking upon Mrs. Fry as a sort of impersonation of the subject, they desired to bring her into com-

munication with such persons as were likely to forward her views, for they believed, that her persuasive arguments were founded on such indubitable truth, that they required but to be understood, to carry conviction to the minds of those who heard them. With this object they urged her being one of the few ladies invited to the banquet given at the Mansion House, on occasion of the laying the first stone of the new Royal Exchange.

She hesitated at first, but on consideration, believed it right to yield to the wishes of her friends ; where she sought her armour, and how she wore it, her own words must show.

18th, Third-day.—Through condescending mercy, I may say I found this prayer answered. I had an important conversation on a female prison being built, with Sir James Graham, our present Secretary of State, upon the Patronage Society, etc. I think it was a very important beginning with him for our British Society. With Lord Aberdeen, Foreign Secretary, I spoke on some matters connected with the present state of the Continent ; with Lord Stanley, our Colonial Secretary, upon the state of our penal colonies, and the condition of the women in them, hoping to open the door for further communication with him on these subjects. Nearly the whole dinner was occupied in deeply interesting conversation with Prince Albert and Sir Robert Peel. With the Prince, I spoke very seriously upon the Christian education of their children, the management of the nursery, the infinite importance of a holy and religious life ; how I had seen it in all ranks of life—no real peace or prosperity without it. Then the state

of Europe ; the advancement of religion in the Continental Courts. Then prisons ; their present state in this country—my fear that our punishments were becoming too severe—my wish that the Queen should be informed of some particulars respecting separate confinement, etc. etc. We also had much entertaining conversation about my journeys, the state of Europe, habits of countries, mode of living, etc. etc. With Sir Robert Peel, I dwelt much more on the prison subject ; I expressed my fears that gaolers had too much power, that punishment was rendered uncertain, and often too severe—pressed upon the need of mercy, and begged him to see the New Prison, and to have the dark cells a little altered.

The King of Prussia's arrival in England soon afterwards, to stand in person as sponsor to the infant Prince of Wales, was an event of much interest to Mrs. Fry. She could not be insensible to the kindness he had shown her, and the gracious reception afforded her in his dominions ; she admired the magnanimity with which he maintained the right on subjects that approved themselves to his conscience, and greatly wished to see His Majesty again ; but it was not for her to make any overture : it was therefore with much pleasure, that she received an intimation of the King's desire to meet her at the Mansion House.

First Month, 29th.—To-morrow, the King of Prussia has appointed me to meet him to luncheon at the Mansion House. I have rather felt its being the Sabbath ; but as all is to be conducted in a quiet, suitable, and most orderly manner, consistent with the day, I am

quite easy to go. May my most holy, merciful Lord, be near to me as my Helper, my Keeper, and my Counsellor! My dearest husband and Katharine are to go with me. Oh! may my way be made plain before me as to what to do, what to leave undone; when to speak, and when to be silent.

30th, First-day.—I felt low and far from well when I set off this morning for London; but, through the tender mercy of my God, soon after sitting down in Meeting, I partook of much peace. I was humbled before my Lord in the remembrance of days that are past, when I used to attend that meeting (Gracechurch Street), almost heart-broken from sorrow upon sorrow, and I remembered how my Lord sustained me, and made my way in the deep waters. He also raised me up, and then He forsook me not. I was enabled very earnestly to pray to my God for help, direction and preservation.

After this solemn and refreshing Meeting, we went to the Mansion House. We waited some time in the drawing-room before the King arrived from St. Paul's Cathedral. I have seldom seen any person more faithfully kind and friendly, than he is. The Duke of Cambridge was also there, and many others who accompanied the King. We had much deeply interesting conversation on various important subjects of mutual interest. We spoke of the christening. I dwelt on its pomp as undesirable, &c.; then upon Episcopacy and its dangers; on prisons; on the marriage of the Princess Mary of Prussia; on the Sabbath. I entreated the Lord Mayor to have no toasts, to which he acceded, and the King approved; but it was no light or easy matter. I rejoice to believe

my efforts were right. I told the King my objection to any thing of the kind being allowed by the Lord Mayor on that day ; indeed, I expressed my disapprobation of them altogether. I may at the end of this weighty day return thanks to my most gracious Lord and Master, who has granted me His help and the sweet feeling of His love.

There His Majesty arranged to meet Mrs. Fry the following morning at Newgate, and afterwards to take luncheon at Upton Lane. She describes the King's visit.

Second Month, 1st, Third-day.—Yesterday was a day never to be forgotten whilst memory lasts. We set off about eleven o'clock, my sister Gurney and myself, to meet the King of Prussia at Newgate. I proceeded with the Lady Mayoress to Newgate, where we were met by many gentlemen. My dear brother and sister Gurney, and Susannah Corder, being with me, was a great comfort. We waited so long for the King that I feared he would not come ; however, at last he arrived, and the Lady Mayoress and I, accompanied by the Sheriffs, went to meet the King at the door of the prison. He appeared much pleased to meet our little party, and after taking a little refreshment, he gave me his arm, and we proceeded into the prison and up to one of the long wards, where every thing was prepared ; the poor women round the table, about sixty of them, many of our Ladies' Committee, and some others ; also numbers of gentlemen following the King, Sheriffs, &c. I felt deeply, but quiet in spirit—fear of man much removed. After we were seated, the King on my right hand, the Lady Mayoress on the left, I expressed my desire that

the attention of none, particularly the poor prisoners, might be diverted from attending to our reading by the company there, however interesting, but that we should remember that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords was present, in whose fear we should abide, and seek to profit by what we heard. I then read the 12th chapter of Romans. I dwelt on the mercies of God being the strong inducement to serve Him, and no longer to be conformed to this world. Then I finished the chapter, afterwards impressing our all being members of one body, poor and rich, high and low, all one in Christ, and members one of another. I then related the case of a poor prisoner, who appeared truly converted, and who became such a holy example ; then I enlarged on love, and forgiving one another, showing how Christians must love their enemies, &c., &c. After a solemn pause, to my deep humiliation, and in the cross, I believed it my duty to kneel down before this most curious, interesting and mixed company, for I felt my God must be served the same every where, and amongst all people, whatever reproach it brought me in. I first prayed for the conversion of prisoners and sinners generally, that a blessing might rest on the labours of those in authority, as well as the more humble labourers for their conversion ; next I prayed for the King of Prussia, his Queen, his kingdom, that it might be more and more as the city set on the hill that could not be hid—that true religion in its purity, simplicity, and power, might more and more break forth, and that every cloud that obscured it might be removed ; then for us all, that we might be of the number of the redeemed, and eventually unite with them in heaven, in

a never-ending song of praise. All this prayer was truly offered in the name and for the sake of the dear Saviour, that it might be heard and answered. I only mention the subject, but by no means the words. The King then again gave me his arm, and we walked down together. There were difficulties raised about his going to Upton, but he chose to persevere. I went with the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs, the King with his own people. We arrived first. I had to hasten to take off my cloak, and then went down to meet him at his carriage-door, with my husband, and seven of our sons and sons-in-law. I then walked with him into the drawing-room, where all was in beautiful order—neat, and adorned with flowers: I presented to the King our eight daughters and daughters-in-law, (Rachel only away,) our seven sons and eldest grandson, my brother and sister Buxton, Sir Henry and Lady Pelly, and my sister, Elizabeth Fry—my brother and sister Gurney he had known before—and afterwards presented twenty-five of our grandchildren. We had a solemn silence before our meal, which was handsome and fit for a King, yet not extravagant—every thing most complete and nice. I sat by the King, who appeared to enjoy his dinner, perfectly at his ease and very happy with us. We went into the drawing-room after another solemn silence, and a few words which I uttered in prayer for the King and Queen. We found a deputation of Friends with an address to read to him—this was done; the King appeared to feel it much. We then had to part.

The King expressed his desire that blessings might continue to rest on our house.

Two very diverse interests shortly followed—the departure of a grandson for the China seas, in H.M.S. Agincourt, and preparations for a sale for the benefit of the Funds of the British Ladies' Society. The Lord Mayor had offered the use of the Egyptian Hall for the purpose, and Lady Pirie had volunteered to make every arrangement to lessen the fatigue of Mrs. Fry, and render it easy and agreeable to her coadjutors and friends.

Both events are recorded in her journal.

Fourth Month, 17th.—I feel the prospect seriously of our dear grandchild,* going to sea; he leaves us to-morrow! It is no light matter. May our God, through His tender mercy, bring good out of this apparent evil. I have exceedingly regretted his going, but I am now more reconciled.

This week we have a very large sale at the Mansion House for the British Society. Although, on the whole, I approve these sales, there are many difficulties attached to them. I earnestly desire and pray, that through the tender mercy of my God, no harm may come of it, but in whatever we do, that the cause of truth and righteousness may be exalted.

Oh Lord hear! Oh Lord help! Oh Lord protect and forgive, for Thine own Name's sake; and I pray, gracious Lord, that Thou wouldest be very near to me this day and this week, and help me, in deep humility, godly sincerity, and faithfulness, to do Thy will. And be near, I pray Thee, to all my children and friends, as their Helper and Keeper, and to my dear little grandson in this his most serious going out. I ask thy protecting

* Commander S. Gurney Cresswell, R. N.

care over him, and if it be Thy will, make him feel the dangers, temptations, and difficulties of the line he has chosen, that he may never be one to promote war, but rather peace upon earth.

The kindness and liberality of Sir John and Lady Pirie on this occasion towards all, was only equalled by their personal and most considerate attention to Mrs. Fry. The sale occupied three days, and realized above £1,300 ; but her conclusion, after this the last sale in which she ever took a part, was—"when I consider the great trouble, the enormous expense, the time taken up, the obligation we put ourselves under to so many persons, and the fatigue of body, I think I never can patronise another sale."

About this time she addressed to her eldest son the following letter, on his becoming a magistrate :—

MY DEAREST JOHN,

Ever since I heard of the prospect of thy being a magistrate, I have had it on my mind to write to thee ; but, alas ! such is the press of my engagements, that in my tender state I cannot do what I would. I now however take up my pen, to tell thee a little of my mind. I think the office of magistrate a very weighty one, and often, I fear, too lightly entered, and its very important and serious duties too carelessly attended to ; and this I attribute to a want of a due feeling of the real difficulty of performing any duty, particularly one where much true wisdom is required in doing justice between man and man, unless governed and directed by that wisdom that cometh from

above, which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." I believe it is thy desire to be governed by this wisdom, and to do justice, and love mercy ; but remember this requires a very watchful and subjected spirit, and those who have to sit in judgment on others must often sit in judgment on themselves : this fits the mind for sympathizing with the wanderers, and adopting every right measure for their reformation and improvement. I think it is of the utmost importance to enter the duties attached to a magistrate in a very prayerful spirit, seeking the help and direction of the Spirit of God, and that the understanding may be enlightened to comprehend His will. I am perfectly sensible that a justice of the peace must keep to the laws of his country in his decisions, and further, that he should be *well acquainted with these laws* ; but I also know much rests with him, as to leaning on the side of *mercy*, and not of *severity* ; and I know from my experience with so very many magistrates, how much they do in the prisons, &c., &c. to *instigate* or *increase* suffering ; and also how much they may do for the improvement, and real advantage of criminals. Much is in their power ; they may do *much* harm or much good : too many are influenced by selfishness, party spirit, or partiality, both in individual cases and where public good is concerned ; but the simple, upright, faithful, just and merciful magistrates, are too rare, and they are much wanted. Mayst thou, my dearest John, be of this number ; but remember, it can only be by grace, and being thyself directed and governed by the Holy Spirit of God.

I advise thy reading Judge Hale's life. I know a judge and a justice are different things; but the same wise, truly impartial spirit, should govern both. I wish to remind thee, that in petty offences, much is left to the magistrate's own judgment, and the utmost care is needful that crime is not increased by punishment, and the offenders become hardened, instead of being brought to penitence. I fear for young people. Our prisons in Essex generally only harden; therefore, try any other means with boys or girls: get them to Refuges, or try to have such measures adopted as may lead them to repentance and amendment of their ways. My very dear love to thy wife, and all thy children; and with deep and earnest desires that through the grace of God thou mayst perform all thy duties, domestic and public, to His glory, thy own peace, and the good of mankind.

I am, thy very affectionate mother,

ELIZABETH FRY.

I forgot to say that a late Act of Parliament gives very great liberty in not sending young offenders to prison; but much rests with the judge or the magistrate, as to what is to be done with them; this Act was I think passed about two years ago. Many of the late Acts of Parliament respecting persons need much studying, accompanied with the reports from the different Inspectors; these give such an excellent knowledge of the subject. I believe I could send thee most of them. The prisons in Essex are considered to need much improvement. I hope before very long to visit you at Warley Lodge, and to enter upon many particulars with thee. How

delightful the weather is, quite summer like ; I think your country must be very beautiful.

Mrs. Fry's health continuing in an infirm and suffering state, although better than during the winter, some change appeared necessary, and absence from the continual tide of London engagements, which reached her at Upton Lane. Her brother-in-law, Mr. Hoare, offered the loan of his house at Cromer, a commodious residence on the top of the cliff, commanding fine sea views. The little village of Cromer and its beautiful church in the foreground, and at the back, the Light-house hills, their easy ascent and smooth short turf, dry in even the wettest weather, afforded a delightful resort for one whose failing power could no longer encounter exertion. Cromer, too, was associated with the days of happy childhood. She greatly enjoyed this time, and was cheered by the singular kindness and affection of many whom she had long loved, and others with whom she then for the first time became sociably acquainted. Her sister, Mrs. Catherine Gurney, was with them at the Cliff House ; she saw much of the beloved residents at Northrepps Hall. Northrepps Cottage, Sherringham, and Cromer Hall, were also points of light in the landscape—two months thus passed pleasantly away.

Every week was marked by slow but sure increase in strength ; but her amendment was retarded by anxiety on account of a daughter, then very ill in the Isle of Wight. She was also distressed by her eldest grandson entering the army. She strongly objected to war, and grieved that any belonging to her should directly or

indirectly promote it ; but having done all she “could to prevent it,” she “desires to leave it to her Lord,” “who can, if He sees meet, bring good out of that which I feel to be evil.”

Mrs. Fry, with her brother Joseph John Gurney, who, with Mrs. Gurney and his daughter, had been staying at Cromer, endeavoured to establish a reading-room and library for the fishermen, to draw them from the public-house and its attendant evils. Some good was effected, but circumstances precluded permanent benefit. The affection many amongst them evinced to her was, however, extraordinary ; as one of her German friends had expressed it, her very name was a “word of beauty” amongst them. During her stay at Cromer, she had very satisfactory accounts from many parts of the good effected there, through her instrumentality. She also was exceedingly gratified by the decision of Government, that matrons should henceforth be appointed to all female Convict Ships. Two very suitable persons recommended by the Ladies’ Committee, were appointed by Government to this office, in the Garland Grove, then about to leave London : before their embarkation the following admirable letter was written by Mrs. Fry to Miss Fraser :—

Cromer, Eighth Month, 27th, 1842.

MY BELOVED FRIEND,

Thy note received to-day has been a real comfort to me ; the post brought some sorrows, and thy note brought weight in the other scale ; but I have sat at home weeping, as I did not feel much inclined to meet a delightful party of brothers, sisters, etc., at my brother

Buxton's, but rather to sit alone, and look to my own vineyard, and my own very deep interests in my family and my beloved friends, and for the causes that are near my heart. I humbly thank our Heavenly Father, who has regarded our very unworthy prayers, and raised up those that we trust may be suitable in the convict-ship, and helpful in the colony ; may grace and wisdom from above be poured forth upon them ; may they remember that the servants of the Lord must prove their faith more by *conduct* than word or profession ; they must avoid anything like religious *cant*, if I may so express myself, and in an upright, holy, self-denying and watchful deportment, be preachers of righteousness, and prove who it is that they believe in, serve, and obey. I am often inexpressibly bound and brought low in spirit, when I look at the standard and holy example of our blessed Lord, and then behold my own shortcoming. I long for a closer walk with God, for myself, and all that I love ; and that, through the help of His Holy Spirit, we should more constantly prove our love to Him who died for us, and hath loved us with an everlasting love. Pray impress on these matrons the extreme importance of their prudent and circumspect conduct, as it respects the gentlemen on board ; and towards the women, the need of sound discretion, and the meekness of wisdom ; and amongst all, to be wise as serpents, harmless as doves, and to be pitiful and courteous. I quite feel my indulgent life, and am very ready to work when my Lord may enable me. I do not desire to save myself unless duty calls me to do it ; indeed, dear friend, I have always felt it an honour I have been unworthy of,

to do anything for my Lord, and to be made an instrument of good to my fellow-creatures. I have been thankful for thy letters, because they have encouraged me to hope that you are not discouraged, but that the Spirit of our God is poured forth upon my beloved friends, to help them in this weighty and important work, and to make them willing to labour in this service, and for the good of their poor fellow-mortals. My dear love to all our sisters in this service ; and I am truly, in gospel bonds,

Thy attached friend,

ELIZABETH FRY.

The appointment of these matrons was justly regarded by Mrs. Fry, and her fellow-labourers, as a step of the utmost importance. It mitigates most materially the evils attendant upon the transportation of females. Objections had been urged to the measure in former years ; but now it was clearly admitted that none were so fit to have charge of these unhappy women, as persons of their own sex, if such could be found, who, influenced by right motives, and possessing the requisite qualifications, were willing to encounter the privations and perils of a long voyage in such society.

On her way home, she stayed for a few days at Lynn with her children, her last visit ! Never was she more bright or lovely in spirit. She had a wise, kind word for all—children, servants, dependents. All loved her, all felt that her message was not from herself, nor of man's invention ; but that in her Master's name she invited others to "love and to good works." How she condescended to all ; listening to the minutest details of

their cares and pleasures. How ready in devising means for helping others, not merely in the great, but the little things of life ; for who so prompt in expedients ? in the sick room ? in the nursery with an unmanageable child, or a froward servant ? She returned home the end of October ; but a scene of peculiar sorrow awaited her there ; the illness and death of her lovely little granddaughter Harriet Streatfeild, between seven and eight years old. She was much with her children during their nursing, and a close participator in their grief.

Her bereaved daughter having decided upon attending the funeral of her child, Mrs. Fry accompanied her. It was a bright clear winter's day ; besides her parents, nearly twenty of their children and grandchildren followed to the silent tomb, the first with the exception of their own little Elizabeth, of their forty-six descendants, who had been taken at an age of understanding. The solemn procession arrived at East Ham Church, when with no spectators but the weeping villagers, the Vicar, the Rev. William Streatfeild, commenced the most impressive service, which from this time was to be so frequently heard in the family circle. Mrs. Fry went in the carriage with her daughter, and stood by her at the grave : when the service was ended, an impressive pause ensued ; then, as the mourners prepared to move away, might be heard the tone of her gentle voice, "a solemn breathing sound," as she addressed her weeping daughter—"It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."

A family party gathered in the evening : after the fifth chapter of the 2nd of Corinthians had been read,

Elizabeth Fry addressed a heart-searching exhortation to her "children, grandchildren, and all the dearly beloved ones present," to be ready "when the next summons should come—thanksgiving that the lamb taken was a believing child, one rather peculiarly impressed with the fact of redemption, and forgiveness of sins through Christ; and in practice, an obedient gentle spirited creature, and according to the measure of so young a child, unusually full of good works and alms deeds;" for she gave much to the poor, whose tales of woe (whether true or false, she did not stop to inquire) always touched her; and her *good mark* money, which she saved till it amounted to a pound, she had given to the Ceylon Mission. Thus, even in so young a child, did the good tree bring forth little blossoms of good fruit! gone to mature and fructify in Heaven, through Christ who died for her, and in whom she truly believed." Many other things were spoken by her. Then she prayed for all the three generations present, a soul-touching prayer, committing all to God.

As the spring of 1843 advanced, bringing with it something of restored health, Elizabeth Fry believed it her duty once more to visit the Continent. Her attraction was peculiarly to Paris. Matters of importance that she earnestly desired to have completed, awaited her attention, and there appeared an opening beyond any thing she had known before, for usefulness in that great capital. There were Christian and benevolent persons whom she desired to see again "in the flesh," and build them up, if enabled, in faith and hope. She had retained her certificate, granted her by Friends for her

last journey. Her brother, Joseph John Gurney, also believed it his duty to visit Paris, as part of a more extended journey. Mrs. Gurney accompanied him, and Josiah Forster consented to join their party. In addition to these three participators and supporters in the various religious and philanthropic objects which might open before them, her eldest daughter went as her mother's especial companion, to watch over and care for her health.

They landed at Boulogne. The voyage had been so trying to Mrs. Fry, from a heavy rolling sea; and the weather being cold and unfavourable, that her fellow-travellers doubted the practicability of her pursuing her journey. By setting off late, and resting an hour or two in the middle of the day, she seemed revived, when at the end of two days they arrived at Amiens. Here the Sunday was passed. In the evening they were permitted to worship in the simple mode of Friends, in the room used by the Protestants as their chapel, where a venerable pastor, eighty years of age, laboured among a small flock in the midst of a large Roman Catholic population. Many of these were present; their hearts appeared touched and animated by the ministry on this occasion, which tended to console the discouraged, and strengthen the feeble-minded.

At Clermont-en-Oise, the ladies were permitted to inspect the Great Central Prison for women, calculated to contain twelve hundred, although nine hundred only were in confinement when they were there. It is under the charge of a Supérieure and twenty-two nuns, no men being allowed to enter. The Supérieure was an intelli-

gent, powerful-minded woman, greatly afraid of the abuses to which the solitary system is liable, and the silent system also, when carried to extremes. The prisoners work in large cheerful rooms, a hundred together, under the closest inspection of the nuns, who relieve the monotony by not unfrequently uniting in singing hymns. But a splendid prison extremely well managed, is not so rare a scene as that which concluded the visit. On first arriving, Mrs. Fry had expressed a great wish to see all the nuns, but the Supérieure considered it impossible, as they never leave the women ; however, just before quitting the prison, Mrs. Fry was conducted into an apartment around which sat, some on chairs, some on extremely low seats, some apparently on the floor, the twenty-two nuns in their grey dresses, and the lay sisters in black ; placed in the middle were Mrs. Fry and her sister, Mrs. Joseph John Gurney, the Supérieure between them, holding Mrs. Fry by the hand, whose daughter was requested by the Supérieure to interpret for them. It was no light or easy task to convey exactly her mother's address, on the deep importance of maintaining not alone good discipline amongst the prisoners, but endeavouring to lead them in living faith to Christ, as the only Mediator between God and man, and through whom alone they could be cleansed from the guilt and power of sin. At His name every head bowed. She then went on to tell of Newgate, and the effects of the Gospel there ; many tears were shed at this recital. She concluded by a lively exhortation to these devoted nuns, whom she could "salute as sisters in Christ," to go forward in their work, but in no way to rest upon it, as in itself

meritorious. Here the Supérieure interposed, " Oh non, mais il y a un peu de mérite, l'homme a quelque mérite pour ce qu'il fait. " An old nun, who probably understood English, rejoined, " Ma mère, Madame, thinks that if the love of God does not sufficiently animate the heart to do it without feeling it a merit, or desiring reward, it falls short." " Ah, c'est bien ! comme elle est bonne ! " replied the Supérieure. Mrs. Fry, concluded by a short blessing and prayer in French. It was a curious scene, and a solemn feeling pervaded the whole.

Mrs. Fry had strong hopes of effecting much during her stay at Paris ; another spirit prevailed there—M. Guizot in fact head of the Cabinet, though the Duke of Dalmatia was President of the Council, having proved himself ready to support any measure for the moral benefit of the people, and their advance in sound knowledge and civilization. In 1833, when Minister of Public Instruction, he had shown his genius for education, and lively interest in the good of his countrymen, by the ordinance which, prepared by himself, and promulgated as law, raised in an exceedingly short space of time, in nine thousand Communes, the village school-room, for the instruction of the village poor.

Mrs. Fry believed that she should find in him the enlightened philanthropist, and the prudent yet fearless politician ; one who taught in the school of the French Revolution, had marked and comprehended its horrors, without being blind to the benefits it had conferred upon his country and mankind, in sweeping away the accumulated tyranny and bigotry of centuries : one who, whilst he shrank from changes for the sake of novelty,

was as capable in devising expedients for the remedy of real evils, as he was resolute in carrying them into execution. Unblemished in personal character, exemplary in private life, and professing the Reformed faith in religion, Mrs. Fry looked to him as eminently calculated to receive and respond to her own opinions and experiences.

On the 25th, Mrs. Fry waited, by appointment, on the Duchess of Orleans, at the Tuilleries ; but finding some difficulty in fully conveying her meaning, her daughter was sent for to interpret. In a letter to her sisters, she describes herself ushered into an immense drawing-room, the size, and heavy crimson and gold magnificence of which exceeded any room she had ever seen. On a sofa, about half way up the room against the wall was seated her mother ; by her side a young lady, in deep mourning, over whose white and black cap hung a large long crape scarf or veil that reached the ground on either side : her figure tall and elegant, her face and features small and delicate, her eyes blue, and her complexion very fair—a lovely blush came and went as she spoke. From her dress and appearance no one could for a moment doubt, but that it was the widow of the heir of France. Opposite to her on a chair was an elderly lady, the grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh, her step-mother, who had brought her up from childhood. These three were the only occupants of that vast saloon. The conversation at first was upon the Duchess of Orleans' affliction ; they had each a Bible in their hand. Mrs. Fry read to them a few verses, and commented on them, on affliction and its peaceable fruits afterwards. They then

spoke of the children and the House of Orleans, and the importance of their education and early foundation in real Christian faith. The grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh, an eminently devoted, pious woman, deeply responded to these sentiments. It was an hour and a half before this interesting conversation came to a close.

The following Sunday, after attending their own little Meeting, a large public one was held in the Methodist chapel. Mr. Gurney spoke well in French, Mrs. Fry through an excellent interpreter.

The evening of the next day, they gathered round them a very singular party, about thirty persons of colour, chiefly from Hayti, the Isle of France, and Guadaloupe : they were principally students of law or medicine ; one a painter, who had some good pictures in the exhibition. Several of them spoke excellent French, and were intelligent-looking young men. Mr. Gurney was desirous of obtaining from them any information he could on the state of the different West Indian Islands.

The evening concluded with reading in the Bible. Mrs. Fry addressed her auditory on the words of St. Peter, "I perceive that God is no respecter of persons ;"—Acts x. 31—going on to that glorious passage in the Revelations, which tells of the company that cannot be numbered, gathered out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people,

Speaking of the close of the day, she says : "I laid me down and slept in peace."

Wednesday was a dinner at Count Pelet de la Lozère's. Thursday, at M. Guizot's : seated by their celebrated host, this dinner was felt by Mrs. Fry to be an

occasion of great responsibility. She was encouraged by his courteous attention, unreservedly to speak to him on the subjects which had so long been near to her heart. It was no common ordeal for woman, weak even in her strength, to encounter reasoning powers and capabilities such as his : their motives of action arising probably from far distant sources, but curiously meeting at the same point ; her's from deep-rooted benevolence, directed by piety in its most spiritual form ; his from reflection, observation, and statesman-like policy, guided by philanthropy, based on philosophy and established conviction — yet in the aggregate the results the same ; an intense desire to benefit and exalt human nature, and arrest the progress of moral and social evil, and an equal interest in ascertaining the most likely methods of effecting the desired end. They spoke of crime in its origin, its consequences, and the measures to be adopted for its prevention ; of the treatment of criminals ; of education and of Scriptural instruction. Here Mrs. Fry urged the diffusion of Scriptural truth, and the universal circulation of the Scriptures, as the one means capable alone of controlling the power of sin, and shedding light upon the darkness of superstition and infidelity.

The following evening, Mrs. Fry and her brother received at their hotel a large party of Greeks ; amongst others, their Ambassador, M. Coletti. The Duke de Broglie was kind enough to interpret for Mrs. Fry. Before the party separated, Mr. Gurney read the account of St. Paul's visit to Athens ; his comments on this portion of Holy Writ were luminous, powerful, and appropriate.

When in Paris in 1839, Mrs. Fry had been interested

by a numerous company of Greeks who met at her hotel. On the present occasion that interest was confirmed. The want of even elementary books in Greece was fully discussed, and it was decided to form a plan to supply this want. To do this effectually, a second evening was appointed for the purpose. There were assembled on this occasion some very superior men, among others M. de Comnène, who though not "born in the purple," was one of a family recognized, as lineally descended from the Emperors of Constantinople. A committee of Greeks, French, and English, was formed to draw up rules, and endeavour to raise subscriptions, though not till after much animated discussion; the young Greek students in Paris undertaking to translate some works of elementary instruction. A spelling book with pictures was to be the first thing attempted, a desideratum not existing in that country. There was reason to expect that, through influence with the Government at Athens, these books would be dispersed into every Commune for the use of the schools and poor. Mrs. Fry had before been interested on the subject of female education in Greece, and in this important movement for supplying that country with elemental literature, she believed that the women also would eventually partake in the benefit.

One occasion which Mrs. Fry considered peculiarly important she describes herself.

Fifth-day evening, Fifth Month.—We had a most weighty and serious time. We met at our friend Mark Wilks' about a hundred persons, perhaps forty of them pasteurs and missionaries. They had a religious service of their own—first singing a hymn, then reading

the Holy Scriptures, afterwards prayer ; which when concluded, Mark Wilks said any brother or sister present was at liberty to speak. I ventured in fear to open my mouth ; an interpreter at hand. First, on the state of Protestant Europe, the religious persecutions in it, and dependence on forms. I also expressed my desire that they might stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free ; my hope that they might arise and shine, manifesting that their light was come, and that the glory of the Lord had risen upon them. I then addressed the pasteurs only, desiring that the Spirit of God might be poured forth upon them, that sinners might be converted, mourners comforted, and the weak strengthened. I felt humbled afterwards, ready to hide my head from the sight of man ; yet I returned home, laid me down and slept, for the Lord sustained me. But He only knows the deep exercise of my spirit at such times.

On Sixth day, we paid a long visit to the St. Lazare Prison, with Catholic and Protestant ladies. I spoke to the women at different times, as did my sister, though not properly interpreted for ; yet the truth did appear to reach many hearts, and I believe this visit was not in vain in the Lord.

Several large parties succeeded each other, and religious communications were blended with social intercourse.

Mrs. Fry again saw the Duchess of Orleans. With the grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh she had several interviews, in which the intercourse between these Christian ladies assumed a deeply religious character.

It being the period of the annual meetings, many

pasteurs were assembled ; about thirty of them were invited by Mr. Gurney to breakfast, at the Hôtel Meurice.

A solemn time of religious communication, exhortation, and prayer, was followed by really a delightful meal.

One evening M. Guizot dined with Mrs. Fry's party. The topics before discussed were then resumed :—the state of Protestants in France, “ La liberté des cultes,” and Negro Slavery. Mrs. Fry entreated M. Guizot's attention to the state of the Sandwich Islands. She had received from Kamehameha III. the King, a letter a few months before, entreating her good offices to second his endeavours to prohibit the importation and use of spirituous liquors in his kingdom, the baneful and demoralizing effects of which he stated to be lamentable.

Last entry in her journal at Paris :—

Paris, Fifth Month 21st, First-day.—My birthday, sixty-three ! My God hath not forgotten to be gracious.

The last week has been an interesting one. We were sent for by the King. My brother, sister, and I, paid rather a remarkable visit to him, the Queen, and the Princess Adelaide. To my surprise and pleasure yesterday, there arrived from the Queen a most beautiful Bible with fine engravings, without note or comment, given me as a mark of her satisfaction in our visit.

A quiet resting day was spent at Passy with her old and valued friends the Delessert family, with whom she had some solemn religious communication on this, the last day she spent amongst them.

On returning home, she was able to attend one or two of the Yearly Meetings in London, and for a short time to encounter the current of life better than before her journey.

CHAPTER XXIV.

LAST JOURNEY ON RELIGIOUS SERVICE—INCREASED ILLNESS—SANDGATE—TONBRIDGE WELLS—WINTER OF GREAT SUFFERING—MOVED TO BATH—RETURN TO UPTON LANE—DEATH OF HER SISTER ELIZABETH FRY—DEATH OF A GRANDSON—ATTENDS THE MEETING AT PLAISTOW—STAY AT WALMER—DEATH OF A GRANDDAUGHTER—DEATH OF HER SON WILLIAM STORRS FRY—DEATH OF ANOTHER GRANDDAUGHTER—DEEP AFFLICTION.

ON the 21st of July, 1843, Elizabeth Fry attended the Quarterly Meeting at Hertford, accompanied by her brother Samuel Gurney, and one of his daughters. It was the last time she left home on a mission of this character, expressly for religious service.

The following evening, a large party of the Delegates from different parts of the world assembled in London, to attend the Anti-Slavery and Peace Society Meetings, came to Upton Lane; the evening was closed by Scripture reading and prayer.

Journal resumed.—Last First-day was not one to be forgotten; much of the morning without clouds. My dear brother and sister Buxton were at Meeting. I felt it my duty to encourage the weary, and enlarged upon our foolishness, yet how the Lord is made unto His people wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemp-

tion. There were some who appeared much impressed. Through the whole of that day and into the next, renewed peace rested on my spirit.

I feel that I am pressed rather beyond my present power of mind or body, and I really forget things : my desire is lively and strong to serve all : one omission has been a real pain, and led me to endeavour afresh to bring myself and my deeds to the light, that they may be reproved, or be made manifest that they are wrought in God.

In July, Mrs. Fry showed increasing symptoms of illness, partly the result of over fatigue, and stress upon her body and mind, and partly as she always considered from a chill, when sitting one evening in the garden at Upton Lane. In this increased state of indisposition she went to Sandgate, chiefly for the sake of her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Fry, whose declining health induced her husband and herself to wish to be near her, much being due to his own and only sister. The only house that could be obtained was on the lower road to Folkestone ; this part forms a complete undercliff, and from its southern aspect is extremely hot, which was obviously unfavourable for Mrs. Fry.

It was at Sandgate, that she received the account of the death of her lovely niece, Harriet Cowper. Nine weeks before, a beautiful and blooming bride, she had been united to the object of her especial choice ; one of whose principles and character, Mrs. Fry entertained a high estimate, and whose affectionate attentions to herself ceased not, till the last sad duties had been paid to her

memory. In the state in which she then was, these tidings were very grievous to her, and very sorrowfully she writes respecting the event.

In how many ways the Lord teaches us! Surely the present is no common lesson.

Three days later she says—We live with you in spirit; (and after naming the most bereaved, adds) and all those dear to the beloved departed. It is sweet to remember that help is laid on One that is mighty, who, blessed be His holy name, is ever near to His dependent servants. I feel, as if I could write to one or other of you more than once in the day, I have such a drawing towards you. How curious, that the only place in the world I have longed to be in, since my indisposition, has been West Norfolk! Had I not had others to consider, and only followed my own inclination, I believe, that I should have been amongst you through this deep trial.

After several distressing weeks, Mrs. Fry was moved to Tonbridge Wells, closely and faithfully nursed by her two youngest daughters.

She returned to Upton the end of September, and very reluctantly renounced the hope of spending part of the autumn in Norfolk. Her eldest daughter, who had been awaiting her there, returned home on the 2nd of October, joining her aunt, Lady Buxton, on the road. She found her mother very ill, more so, she thought, than she had ever seen her. She was laid very low, her illness had its fluctuations; but she did not come down stairs after October the 5th. She however often told those around her, in her great bodily suffering—that the everlasting arms were always underneath her—

that the under current was peace and comfort, though the surface was so much tempest-tossed.

In a letter, dictated October 2nd, she thus expresses herself—

“ I have been very much struck in this illness, with the manner in which my children have been raised up as my helpers, and when I look back upon the deep and unutterable travail of spirit I have had on their behalf; and now that it has pleased the Lord that his hand should, in some respects, be heavy upon me, how it has pleased Him to enable them to minister to my support and help. I think it should be to all of you as parents, an encouragement to do your best, and commit the rest to God. I think this is more especially to be felt as respects our sons, that our first aim must be (in asking for a blessing on our endeavours), that we bring them up for the kingdom, and little can we calculate, how the Lord may bless and deliver them, and make them a blessing to ourselves.”

The only daughter who had not been with her since immediately after her return from France, came to her about the middle of October; she found her in a singular state, one of great natural depression, but unshaken in faith. The complaint being so much upon the nerves, produced sensations of irrepressible distress and discomfort. Yet never under any circumstances could the chord of religion be touched, but it immediately vibrated.

In lesser matters, the tendency of her mind was perceptible throughout her illness; it prevailed over all suffering and all infirmity. Her habits too, continued to exert a powerful influence over her daily life, even

when the failure of physical power precluded her carrying them out. She was most particular in every thing which conduces to bodily health and vigour. She considered the mind and temper to be indirectly benefited by careful attention to the duties of the toilet, opened windows, sufficient exercise, and moderation in living.

This self-training was very apparent amidst her many infirmities, and proved greatly helpful to those around her—it facilitated the efforts that had to be made. At stated times, she expected certain things to be done, and endeavoured to have them accomplished. It was the same with occupation; she was helped by being read to, and liked to see her attendants employed, and to know that the business and duties of life were proceeding without her.

At this time her daughters were her regular attendants; her youngest, Louisa, with her husband and children, remaining for many months at Upton Lane, to assist her eldest sister in devotion to their mother; the other daughters and daughters-in-law resident in the neighbourhood, taking their regular days to spend in the sick room.

Her eldest son also, leaving his family at Geneva, paid her a particularly acceptable visit, remaining for several days with her.

On Sunday, November the 6th, her son William remained from church to be with his mother, and his sister. After reading a chapter in Job, and the 3rd of St. John, she prayed in a very striking manner, that after all the sorrows and fluctuations of time were ended, “We might behold His face in glory; that whilst here

we might not deceive ourselves, but be true and decided followers of Him, who in His own good time would arise with healing on His wings, to deliver us from all our pain."

The following day, a very beautiful note being read to her, from one who preceded her to the heavenly mansions, a few days after writing it—in which, referring to her, the three first verses of the 41st Psalm were quoted. She lay quiet for a short time, and then calling one of her daughters to her bedside said—"May they not be deceived! One thing is certain, I have desired and sought to serve the Lord."

11th.—When suffering from intense thirst, and drinking Seltzer water with some wine in it, which much refreshed her, she observed "what a beautiful provision of nature and blessing of God, is water—natural waters to heal the body, and everlasting waters to heal the soul"—adding, "when awake and distressed with thirst, a few nights previously, this thought of the natural and spiritual waters springing up, made the night almost pleasant."

13th.—Her nephew, the Rev. Edward Hoare, came to see her. He sat down by her sofa, and said to her, "My dear aunt, what a consolation to know you to be of the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood." After a little pause she said with great humility, "But we must avoid false confidence." He replied, that there could be no false confidence, when our hope is fixed on Christ alone. She said with emphasis, "There, indeed, is no false confidence;" and added, that in this illness she had entirely felt without carefulness;

so able to commit every person and every thing, and leave them in His hands ; that she felt no service now called for from her, only to endure as seeing Him who is invisible.

Her nephew reminded her, how St. Paul had to endure the thorn in his flesh, and how encouraging it was to remember that he had prayed three times for its removal, which prayers were not answered by removing the thorn, but by giving grace to bear it, quoting the Scripture, "My grace is sufficient for thee." He then moved to go away, but she detained him, saying, "Dear Edward, if thou hast anything on thy heart for me, do not fear to express it." His answer was, "Yes, dear aunt, I have a few words of prayer much on my heart for you." It was, however, rather an earnest giving of thanks for the assured hope he entertained concerning her. When he ceased, she added, as she laid on her sofa, an intercession, "For this beloved nephew and his work of the ministry, and that in these difficult times he may have wisdom and judgment to act, and power to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made him free, and not be entangled in any yoke of bondage."

One afternoon, when one or two members of her family were reading with her, she was unable to attend to a very interesting religious biography, saying, it was "too touching to her—too affecting." She added, after a pause, "How I feel for the poor when very ill, in a state like my own, for instance, when 'good' ladies go to see them." "Religious truths so strongly brought forward, often injudiciously." She went on speaking on this subject, and then dwelt on "the exquisite tender-

ness of the Saviour's ministrations ;" of " His tone and manner to sinners !"

Soon afterwards she resumed, in the most impressive manner, saying, " that religious truth was opened to her, and supplied to her inwardly, not by man's ministration, but administered according to her need ;" adding, " if I may so say, it is my life."

She constantly spoke of not being called to active service now, and that she had no desire as to recovery ; on the contrary, she was " able quite to leave it." Frequently she repeated to those about her, " I feel the foundation underneath me sure."

On another occasion, she opened her heart on her deep and earnest desires for the good of her children. She spoke of her " great sufferings"—" greater than any one knows"—that if they were to last, no one could wish for her life ; but added, " there is one thing I would willingly live for—the good of my husband and children, and my fellow-creatures."

On the night of October the 25th, she poured out a wonderful stream of rejoicing after she was in bed, a perfect flood of faith and hope—quoting many passages of Scripture, to prove that faith must work by love ; and that faith, if true, must produce works. She said, " with the text, ' He that keepeth my sayings shall never see death,' take this one also, ' He that believeth on me shall never die.'" She afterwards expressed in a tone of the deepest feeling her " perfect confidence, her full assurance, that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, should be able

to separate her from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord ;” adding, “ my whole trust is in Him, my entire confidence.”—“ I *know* in whom I have believed, and can commit all to Him, who has loved me and given Himself for me, whether for life or death, sickness or health, time or eternity.”

In the course of the same day, she said very emphatically, “ My dear Rachel, I can say one thing—since my heart was touched at seventeen years old, I believe I never have awakened from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being, how best I might serve my Lord.”

In one of the remaining entries in her journal, she thus writes :—

Upton, Twelfth Month, 7th.—Lord ! undertake Thyself for me ; Thy arm of power can alone heal, help, and deliver ; and in Thee do I trust, and hope, though at times deeply tried and cast down before Thee : yet, O Lord ! Thou art my hope, and be therefore entreated of Thy poor sorrowful and often afflicted servant, and arise for my help. Leave not my poor soul destitute, but, through the fulness of Thine own power, mercy and love, keep me alive unto Thyself, unto the end ! that nothing may separate me from Thy love, that I may endure unto the end ; and when the end comes, that I may be altogether Thine, and dwell with Thee, if it be but the lowest place within the gate, where I may behold Thy glory and Thy holiness, and for ever rest in Thee.

I do earnestly entreat Thee, that to the very last I may never deny Thee, or in any way have my life or conversation inconsistent with my love to Thee, and

most earnest desire to live to Thy glory ; for I have loved Thee, O Lord, and desired to serve Thee without reserve. Be entreated, that through Thy faithfulness, and the power of Thy own Spirit, I may serve Thee unto the end. Amen.

A few memoranda from the journal of her son William are here introduced, not merely as illustrative of her state, but as descriptive of his communication with the tenderly-beloved mother, whom he was to precede by so short a period to that land, where there is no more Death !

“ The evening of the 29th, was one of the greatest suffering and distress, such as I never remember to have witnessed. But, through all, her faith was triumphant, and her confidence unshaken. I endeavoured to remember a few of her expressions, and have succeeded in calling to mind the following :—

“ I believe this is not death, but it is as passing through the valley of the shadow of death, and perhaps with more suffering, from more sensitiveness ; but the rock ‘ is here ;’ ‘ the distress is awful, but He has been with me.’

“ I feel that He is with me, and will be with me, even to the end. David says, why hast Thou forsaken me ? I do not feel that I am forsaken. In my judgment I believe this is not death, but it is as death. It is nigh unto death.’ Her agony appeared almost unbearable ; but she frequently expressed fears of being impatient. ‘ May none of you be called to pass through such a furnace ; but still my sufferings have been mitigated through mercy and grace ! fulness of grace ! Now, my dear

William, be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord ; and then thy labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. O ! the blessedness of having desired to be on the Lord's side ! (not that I have any merit of my own). I cannot express, even in my greatest trials and tribulations, the blessedness of His service. My life has been a remarkable one ; much have I had to go through, more than mortal knows, or ever can know ; my sorrows at times have been bitter ; but my consolations sweet ! In my lowest estates, through grace, my love to my Master has never failed, nor to my family, nor to my fellow-mortals. This illness may be for death, or it may not, according to His will ; but He will never forsake me, even should He be pleased to take me this night."

The evening of the same day, holding her husband's hand in one of her's, and her son-in-law, Raymond Pelly's, in the other, she burst forth into a most remarkable and triumphant expression of her faith, and her certainty of the truths of Revelation : " I know my foundation to be sure : I feel the rock *always* underneath me."

The following morning, on her son William's reading an expression of love and sympathy from her eldest grandson, who was at Edinburgh with his regiment, she said, " my very dear love to him ; tell him to be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, *whatever may be his circumstances*, it will not be in vain in the Lord."

Her only absent daughter was at this time again summoned from Norfolk. Her mother had suffered some days before with most painful neuralgic symptoms, but

just then there was a degree of respite ; the change, however, since she had seen her before was sorrowful indeed to witness, and could but lead to the most alarming apprehensions. She spoke of her own recovery as a thing hidden from herself, and concerning which she had no desire. One day it was said to her, "that many a Christian had slept in this world and to their own surprise had awakened in glory ;" she exclaimed directly, with most striking emphasis, "Oh ! what a sweet thought." She spoke occasionally of her "timid nature ;" of her "natural fear of death ;" but on Monday night, the 19th, when very low in body and spirit, she said emphatically, "should I never see the light of another morning, remember I am safe !"

Her dependence on her Saviour, and utter rejection of every merit of her own, was entire. On one occasion, she breathed forth, when under deep illness and distress, "I am nothing, I have nothing ; I am poor, miserable, naked, helpless. I can do nothing ; but my Saviour is every thing, all-sufficient—my light, my life, my joy, my eternal hope of glory."

She was comforted, as were her attendants, by occasional visits from members of her own religious persuasion, and other Christian friends. Prayer was offered from time to time in her chamber. The visits of her sister, Lady Buxton, were a true solace to her ; she clung to her with inexpressible tenderness. She was also very dependent on the services of her faithful attendant Christiana G——. On one occasion she was heard to say, "Dear C., how little I thought when thou wast a little girl, what a comfort thou wouldest become to me ! how

many are my mitigations !” She often repeated those words—

“ Come what, come may,
Time and the hour runthrough the roughest day.”

As March advanced, there was perceptible improvement, less severity of pain, and rather more appetite ; she was moved now and then into another room, in a wheeled chair, and she began strongly to wish to be taken to Bath for the benefit of the waters. St. Paul tells us of body, soul and spirit, and in 1 Thessalonians v. 23, and again in Hebrews iv. 12, he tells us of soul and spirit ; her state was a curious illustration of this—the body suffering and infirm—the natural powers of mind enfeebled—but the immortal and renewed spirit rising superior to it all, and shining but the brighter for the surrounding darkness.

After many weeks of difficulty and doubt, the decision was come to, and her husband accomplished her removal to Bath. Sir Fowell and Lady Buxton were already there ; and, though he, like Mrs. Fry, was bowed under infirmity, yet the closeness of the union, natural and spiritual, which existed among them, rendered their being near one another an important solace to them all. Various members of their families successively joined them ; among others, her son William, and his little Emma. How merciful is that arrangement in God’s government of the world, which denies to His frail, feeble creatures, the knowledge of the future ! Much of sorrow and infirmity had they to endure ; but they could not foresee how soon the brightest and the best were to be laid low—the most pleasant pictures marred.

She gained strength at Bath, and was unquestionably in better health on her return home. But she was closely touched by the rapid decline of her sister, Elizabeth Fry. They had been affectionately united for a long course of years. They had travelled together as ministers, among Friends; they had, year after year, sat side by side at the meeting-house at Plaistow; and now in her low and weakened condition, the severing of this tie was to her very painful.

Her sister died on the 2nd of July, rejoicing that the hour of her deliverance had arrived, to lay down her frail tabernacle, and appear in the presence of her God and Saviour.

There was an extraordinary weight on Mrs. Fry's spirit; she dwelt much and often on the invisible world; her sleep partook of these impressions. Did not coming events cast their shadows before? And was not she thus, in some measure, prepared for the woes that were to follow? Her little grandson, Gurney Reynolds, was an especial object of interest to her; he was frequently with her, delighting in her gentle tenderness, and the pursuits she provided for him, so well suited to his feeble health. He left her not more unwell than usual. Tidings came of his being worse, and three days afterwards, that he had breathed away his patient, lamb-like spirit, as he laid upon the sofa in his mother's room. This was the 18th of July.

A change of scene and air seemed so important for her, that her son William's success in obtaining a very suitable house at Walmer, was a real matter of gratulation. But there was another office of love for that beloved one

to perform by his mother, singularly suited to the bond of love and sympathy which had so long united them, and eminently fitted to be his last.

She had long and earnestly desired again to attend the Meeting for worship, at Plaistow. It was proposed from Sunday to Sunday, but the difficult process of dressing was never accomplished till long after eleven o'clock, the hour when the Meeting assembled. An attempt was made on the 28th of July, but totally failed. Her disappointment was extreme, and the hold it took of her spirits so grievous, that it was resolved to make the effort at any cost the following Sunday. Her son William undertook to carry out her wishes: drawn by himself and a younger son in her wheeled chair, she was taken up the Meeting, a few minutes after the Friends had assembled, followed by her husband, her children, and attendants. Her son William seated himself closely by her side, and the rest near her. The silence that prevailed was singularly solemn. After some time, in a clear voice she addressed the assembly. The prominent topic of her discourse was "the death of the righteous;" she expressed the deepest thankfulness, alluding to her sister Elizabeth Fry, for the mercies vouchsafed to "one who having laboured long amongst them, has been called from time to eternity." She quoted that text, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they cease from their labours, and their works do follow them." She dwelt on the purposes of affliction, on the utter weakness and infirmity of the flesh; she tenderly exhorted the young, "the little children amongst us," referring to the death of little Gurney Reynolds. She urged the

need of devotedness of heart and steadiness of purpose ; she raised a song of praise for the eternal hope offered to the Christian, and concluded with those words of Isaiah—“Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty, they shall behold the land that is very far off.” Prayer was soon afterwards offered by her in much the same strain. He joined her in that solemn act, who never was to worship with her again, till before the throne and the Lamb, they should unite in that ineffable song of praise, which stays not night nor day for ever.

Her removal to Walmer was accomplished without much difficulty ; from thence she wrote :—

“I walk in a low valley, still I believe I may say the everlasting arm is underneath, and the Lord is near to me. I pass through deep waters, but I trust, as my Lord is near to me, they will not overflow me. I need all your prayers in my low estate ; I think that the death of my sister, and dear little Gurney, have been almost too much for me.”

Thus was this servant of God permitted to go sorrowing upon her way. But the storm had not blown over ; again the thunder-clouds rolled up. On the 15th of August, the lovely little Juliana, the second daughter of her son William, one of the sweetest blossoms that ever gladdened parents' hearts, was cut off after thirty hours inexplicable illness. Another day, however, sufficed to solve the doubt, three of the servants at the Manor House being attacked by scarlet fever. But all preceding sorrows seemed light in comparison, when the beloved and honoured head of that happy home, was himself laid low by the tremendous malady. He had

written on the death of his aunt shortly before—"Yesterday, we followed the remains of our dear aunt to the grave. We have the comfort of feeling assured, that she has entered into the joy of her Lord. May such be the case with us all ! But if we would ' die the death of the righteous,' as the righteous we must do our day's work in the day."

All stood aghast at these fresh tidings, and with breathless suspense awaited the accounts from hour to hour, and day to day.

"He surely will not be taken—so fearful an overthrow, so terrible a blow cannot be coming !" Thus spoke hope and natural affection ; but there was a response from the inmost heart of those who had watched his life and conversation, his growth in religion, the simple earnestness of his piety—Is not his Master calling for him ?

The children were removed to Plashet Cottage, vacant from the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry. As one and another showed symptoms of fever, they were carried back to Manor House. The servants continued to sick-en successively, and were conveyed to a ward prepared for them at Guy's Hospital. The help of the nursing sisters became invaluable, two or three being in constant attendance. For about a week, strong hopes were entertained that William's most precious life would be spared to his family ; but the fiat was gone forth, and the summons given. On the day of the funeral of his little Juliana, he had asked to have his door open, that he might see the coffin as it was borne by, when, to the

nursing sister by his side, he exclaimed, "I shall go to her, but she shall not return to me."

The fever ran its course, the excitement attending it came and went, but there was no recovering; all seemed to depend upon his powers of taking nourishment. He was calm, even cheerful; there appeared to be little, if any suffering; he perfectly knew his danger; he said that he "should like to recover, if it were right, but he was quite willing to leave it in God's hand." When remarked to him, how great the mercy, that sustaining patience had been granted him, he held up his hand with a great effort, and most emphatically replied, "God never has forsaken me, no, not for a moment, and He never will." As his last day commenced upon earth, his window wide open by the bed-side, and the sweet morning air blowing freshly in, he spoke of the fair view to be seen from it, and listened with interest as the scene was described to him, the grey tints passing from the garden and terrace, and leaving them in light and sunshine. He spoke of his place, of his family, of his many blessings. Some little effort exhausting him, a stimulant was given; as he recovered, with a bright smile he exclaimed, "God is so good;" and they were his last words. Never was a dying bed more favoured—more wonderful the evidence that "God was with him of a truth:" a most solemn calm prevailed; beautiful was the smile which lingered on his dying features. Unseen realities were felt and understood then; it had been heard before, but now was known, and appropriated. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

"Can our mother hear this and live?" was the na-

tural exclamation of her children. Thus wrote one of her sisters :—" We are perfectly thunderstruck ! What a wonderful dispensation of sorrow and loss ! The loss of him in life so entire—the fever so alarming ! How will your precious afflicted mother bear it ? I fear she will not live under such calamity ; but let no one dare to murmur." No one need have feared her enduring the blow, for He who sent it bestowed His Holy Spirit with it. The Christian's faith proved stronger than the mother's anguish. She wept abundantly, almost unceasingly ; but she dwelt constantly on the unseen world, seeking for passages in the Bible which spoke of the happy state of the righteous. She was enabled to rejoice in that rest, upon which so many of her beloved ones had entered, and in a wonderful manner to realize the blessedness of their lot.

Her natural affections and interests were, moreover, occupied for his widow and children, all his little ones having the fever ; and as yet uncertain where her grief might end.

The medical men insisted upon the necessity of every one quitting the house. The little children were carried back to Plashet Cottage, where the others had become ill, and with the exception of three servants in one corner of the basement story, the house was deserted. There are minutes which burn themselves into the brain, from which there is no recovering to be the same again. It was such a one to the two, who, standing on the steps, had seen all depart, and remained themselves but to give one last look and follow. They traversed the empty apartments, where the light struggled to

force its way through the closed shutters. They turned the key and stood in the chamber of death ; and, as they went away, they remembered that not one fortnight before, the “ voice of joy and mirth had been within that dwelling.”

Two days later, the family carriages assembled under the trees, near the lodge gate. The day was glorious—the house in the distance all in light. The heavy sound of wheels was heard ; the black-plumed hearse passed, to be followed by the different carriages ; and the procession wended its way to Little Ilford church. A flood of light fell on the old grey tower, and the rich masses of foliage of the noble trees around it. Never was the funeral service more deeply needed, or its force and its beauty more entirely to be felt. Here he had come from week to week to worship with his family : here he had joined with child-like humility in the services, and knelt in meek reverence to partake of the Sacraments of his Church. Here he was again come, for his beloved remains to be deposited, “ in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection.”

Mrs. Fry was earnest to hear every thing, and to have all particulars given her. The illness of her grandchildren occupied much of her thoughts ; the accounts from them continued to fluctuate ; but on Monday the 2nd of September, Emma, the eldest, was worse. She had been intensely anxious about her father—her inquiries continual ; and after his death, and her own illness began, he was still the object of her thoughts. She was a child of strong feelings, and very sensitive nature. At first, some endeavours were made to divert her, but they

wholly failed, and it was the truth and all the truth which alone had power to soothe her : she responded to the glorious hope set before her, and partook in the assured confidence of his eternal happiness.

Early on Tuesday morning, she followed him to that Saviour whom her young heart had loved, and desired to obey, just one week after his departure, and eighteen days from the death of her sister. One grave contains all that is mortal of the father and his daughters. "They were pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided." The tidings were conveyed to Walmer the same day by some of her children ; others of them had been with their mother from the time she went there.

Her eldest son was with his family in Switzerland, when he received accounts of the alarming illness of his brother ; they travelled rapidly home, but before they could reach England, had letters announcing his death. On landing at Dover, they turned aside to Walmer, and joined the large family party already assembled there.

The following Sunday was a memorable one ; the two last chapters of the Revelations were read, and then some memoranda concerning the beloved departed, and their closing hours upon earth. The service was concluded by solemn thrilling prayer, offered by their mother for those who remained, and for herself in her "low estate :"—for such as had fought the good fight, kept the faith, and obtained the victory, thanksgiving and praise !

Her own journal tells her feelings :—

Walmer, Eighth Month 29th.—Sorrow upon sorrow ! Since I last wrote, we have lost by death, first, my beloved sister, Elizabeth Fry ; second, Gurney Reynolds, our sweet, good grandson ; third, Juliana Fry, my dearest William and Julia's second daughter ; and fourth, above all, our most beloved son, William Storrs Fry, who appeared to catch the infection of his little girl, and died on Third-day of scarlet fever, the 27th of this month. A loss inexpressible—such a son, husband, friend, and brother ! but I trust that he is for ever at rest in Jesus, through the fulness of His love and grace. The trial is almost inexpressible. Oh ! may the Lord sustain us in this time of deep distress. Oh ! dear Lord, keep thy unworthy and poor sick servant in this time of unutterable trial ; keep me sound in faith, and clear in mind, and be very near to us all—the poor widow and children, in this time of deepest distress, and grant that this awful dispensation may be blessed to our souls Amen. This tenderly beloved child attended me to Meeting the last First-day I was at home, and sat by me on the women's side. Oh ! gracious Lord, bless and sanctify to us all, this afflicting trial, and cause it to work for our everlasting good ; and be very near to the poor dear widow and fatherless ; and may we all be drawn nearer to Thee, and Thy kingdom of rest and peace, where there will be no more sin, sickness, death, and sorrow.

CHAPTER XXV.

RETURN FROM WALMER—DEATH OF A NIECE—VISIT TO KENSINGTON
—VISIT TO HER BROTHER, JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY—PARTING
WITH SOME OF HER CHILDREN FOR MADEIRA—MARRIAGE OF A
NEPHEW TO A NIECE—DEATH OF SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON—
VISIT TO NORFOLK—EARLHAM—NORTH REPPS—RUNCTON—
YEARLY MEETING—LADIES' BRITISH SOCIETY MEETING—MAR-
RIAGE OF HER YOUNGEST SON—MARRIAGE OF A NIECE—RE-
MOVAL TO RAMSGATE—SUCCESSIVE PARTIES OF HER FAMILY—
PREPARATION.

“SORROW upon sorrow” was the language of her wounded spirit. In an unusual manner was this devoted servant permitted to partake of the Master’s cup, and through much tribulation to enter the Kingdom. Nor was it only in the greatness, but the character of her afflictions, that so deep a lesson is to be read. Possessing extraordinary natural powers, with extraordinary gifts in grace, she obtained a marvellous influence over the spirits of others, to control the will and win the affections. She could not but know her power, and be conscious of the love she inspired, and the strength she imparted. She was proportionably to be emptied of self, and furnish a striking exemplification of the truth of the scriptural assertion, that “no flesh shall glory in His presence.” It was permitted that she should endure, till they who had felt that life would be a dull blank with-

out her, dare no longer desire her tarriance. The habit of dependance was altogether to be broken, and she who had been as a tower of strength, was to require and depend upon all that human tenderness could invent and cherishing love bestow, for her daily and hourly comfort.

Her own desire after these heavy calamities was to return home ; but she yielded to the wishes of those around her to continue a short time longer at Walmer.

The regulation of her mind, and her established self-discipline, were at that period very instructive ; her health infirm, her natural spirits broken, she persevered as much as possible in regular habits, and certain hours for different occupations ; in no degree refusing to be comforted, willing to be diverted, driving out in the carriage, or on fine days drawn in the beautiful little pony chair that her son Joseph had given her, whilst some of the party walked by her side. But after a little while she became irresistibly desirous of returning to Upton, principally that she might see her bereaved daughter, before the birth of her expected little one.

The return home was sorrowful indeed ; all outwardly the same—but the void—the want so great, of a member of the circle, who, whilst he was the tried friend and faithful counsellor, was wont to bring with him an atmosphere of cheerfulness and love. His habit was to go by Upton Lane on his road to London. His mother and her attendants would watch for the glad tone of his voice, as he hastened in for his little morning visit. It is long before the heart realizes that a pleasure daily repeated at a given time, and for a lengthened period, can never recur.

Another son, William Champion Streatfeild, had taken the fever, one of her "married children," as she designated those, not by birth belonging to her. The day of the return from Walmer, all hope of his recovery was abandoned.

It is possible that her intense anxiety, whilst the life of one so dear hung suspended on a thread, and then the gradual deliverance from it, tended to withdraw her thoughts from the afflictions which had preceded it. Her mind was also occupied by her bereaved daughter-in-law, and her little ones. She speaks of her "beloved daughter Julia" being at Upton, when they returned home. Afterwards, of the great mercy of her expected confinement being well over, and the birth of "a sweet little girl," adding—So we see that the "Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be His Holy name."

As might be reasonably expected, Mrs. Fry's health suffered from all her sorrows, and there were threatenings of the return of some of her most painful symptoms; but they were in mercy averted. She went for a few days to Kensington, to be with her son and daughter—mourners like herself for a beloved child; this little change suited her, and on her return she was rather cheered by a visit from her brother, Joseph John Gurney, and her sister-in-law.

But another sorrow awaited her. On the 1st of December, Catherine Hankinson, the daughter of her late beloved sister Louisa Hoare, died—a few days after her infant son. Though young in years, she was not young in religion: devoted in heart and life, she was apparently ripe for glory, when God took her.

The increasing illness of her brother-in-law, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, also occupied much of her thoughts, and excited her tenderest feelings.

Her son-in-law, William Champion Streatfeild, not having rallied from the effects of the fever, was now ordered without further delay to Madeira. To part from him, and especially from her daughter, was very grievous to her. It was not merely the pain and sorrow of losing the society of this beloved child, which she felt so acutely, but the peculiar and protracted nature of her own illness had rendered her exceedingly dependent on those, who like her daughter Hannah had so largely shared in the attendance upon her. Two of their children remained near their grandmother; the others with their parents took their departure on the 16th of January. She committed them in earnest supplication to Him, "who holdeth the winds in his fists" and "with whom are the issues of life"—and so they parted, never to meet again on earth.

As the winter wore away, there was some revival; she resumed many of her former pursuits; she wrote more letters, and took more part in the daily interests of life. For the sake of her grandchildren, in whom she was anxious to encourage a taste for such objects, she endeavoured to re-arrange her collections of shells, minerals, corals, and other natural curiosities.

She was generally carried down stairs in a chair about noon, and wheeled from room to room; she was dressed as usual, sometimes joining her family at table, and was able to look occasionally at a book. She now generally attended Meeting once on the Sabbath, her ministry

often very beautiful, and not at all partaking of the sort of infirmity which clouded all earthly matters. She enjoyed occasional visits from her friends, and conversed upon various topics.

On one of these occasions, to a friend who found her very ill and low, and who expressed a hope that she might yet be better, she said, "I have not yet seen how it will terminate. Sometimes I have thought perhaps I may be partially raised up, but I lay no stress on it." Afterwards she said with tears, "Oh, He is a covenant-keeping God! He keepeth covenant and mercy. Oh, may I ever keep hold of His mercy!" On the 29th, the same friend being again with her, and perceiving that she was much depressed, remarked, "I believe there is an open door set before thee, although thou mayest not always be able to perceive it open." The precious invalid wept much, and after a time said, "Oh, yes! it is an open door." Presently she continued, "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion; I believe He will never leave nor forsake me;" and after a solemn pause, she added, "I have passed through deep baptisms of spirit in this illness. I may say, unworthy as I am to say it, that I have had to drink in my small measure of the Saviour's cup, when he said, 'My God! my God! why hast Thou forsaken me!' Some of my friends have thought there was a danger of my being exalted, but I believe the danger has been on the opposite side, of my being too low." She afterwards said, with much sweetness, "I feel that He is gracious and full of compassion, that He will not leave me destitute, and I trust never suffer me to dishonour His holy name." And on

another occasion, the same friend being again with her, she dwelt, in a very clear and instructive manner, upon her own state, bodily and mentally. She expressed her belief that her illness was permitted for some special purpose, as it regarded herself, her family, and perhaps many others; she said she could not see what the termination of it was designed to be, adding, "I have had to look over all my life, and to review all the engagements which I have been led into." She spoke of her visit to the Mansion House, and of her meeting the King of Prussia there, and said she had never known a more deeply humiliating occasion; adding, "I cannot doubt that I was rightly led there, and none can think what I went through." Soon afterwards she said to the same friend, "My life has been one of great vicissitudes; mine has been a hidden path, hidden from every human eye. I have had deep humiliations to pass through. I can truly say, I have wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way, and found no city to dwell in; and yet how wonderfully I have been sustained. I have passed through many and great dangers, many ways; I have been tried with the applause of the world, and none know how great a trial that has been, and the deep humiliations of it; and yet I fully believe that it is not nearly so dangerous as being made much of in religious society. There is a snare even in religious unity, if we are not on the watch. I have sometimes felt, that it was not so dangerous to be made much of in the world, as by those whom we think highly of in our own Society. The more I have been made much of by the world, the more I have been inwardly humbled." She added, "I could often

adopt the words of Sir Francis Bacon, 'When I have ascended before men, I have descended in humiliation before God.' At another time, she expressed to some of her near connexions, that she "felt comfort in having given up, to do what she had believed to be her duty." One of her daughters remarked to her, that she had "made great sacrifices;" to which she replied, she "could not call them sacrifices, it was her delight."*

She was much interested in the engagement of her nephew Fowell Buxton, and her niece Rachel Gurney. She knew from former experience, the pain that her brother and sister had to encounter, in the marriage of their daughter leading her from Friends, and yet for them as for herself, she desired to take the highest ground of Christian liberty. She was present at their wedding breakfast, she gave them her blessing, and offered prayer on their behalf.

In February, she paid her first visit to Manor House since all was so changed there. She greatly shrunk from the pain of this visit in prospect, but in fact bore it far beyond expectation. The children won her attention; their delight at seeing her gave her pleasure, and, to a certain extent, her thoughts were occupied. The touch of infirmity which had attended her illness, certainly had its effect, as to the manner in which she felt her affliction, for she was more easily diverted by little things, and for the moment interested in them.

The 19th of February, her brother, friend and early coadjutor, Sir Fowell Buxton, quitted this world, who can doubt—

* Annual Monitor, or Obituary of the members of the Society of Friends for 1846.

“ To be a glorious guest
Where the wicked cease from troubling,
And the weary are at rest.”

These successive departures could but tend to wean from earthly things, and make it of less import, whether a little sooner, or a little later, summoned to join the band which was mustering so strongly on the other side Jordan. On the mind of this way-worn traveller the effect was very perceptible. She dwelt more in spirit with those who were gone. Unseen realities increasingly opened upon her view. Many so near and dear had been gathered round the throne, that her heart and soul continually ascended thitherward.

There was one thing which rested upon her mind—an intense desire again to visit Norfolk, and stay once more at Earlham. With great difficulty it was accomplished, her husband and daughter Louisa taking her there. She remained at Earlham many weeks, often able to partake of enjoyment, and highly valuing the communion with her brother, Joseph John Gurney, his wife, and her beloved sister Catherine. There were also familiar faces, whom it gladdened her heart to see, and friends of every grade who came to visit her, and were all welcomed. Occasionally, her sufferings overcame her, and weighed her down; and when her young relative, John Birkbeck, sank and died, she was afflicted for his family, and her own wounds bled afresh; the close communication between Keswick and Earlham rendering it impossible to shield her from the daily alternations of hope and fear.

She went frequently to Meeting at Norwich. She was

drawn up the Meeting, seated in her wheeled chair, and thence ministered with extraordinary life and power to those present ; her memory in using Scripture in no degree failing her, or her power in applying it.

What a history had hers been, since the time of the scarlet riding-habit—since she sat and wept under the ministry of William Savery. Her ardent aspirations had been strangely granted ; she had passed a long life of blessing to others, but by a path singularly chequered to herself. She had been eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame—when the ear heard her then it blessed her. She had trodden regal halls to plead for the afflicted and the destitute ; she had not withheld unpalatable truth when the language of warning was called for at her lips. She had penetrated, nothing daunted, the gloom of the felon's dungeon, nor had she shrunk from the touch of the unclothed maniac ; she had nourished and brought up children, and they had risen up to call her blessed ; and now, helpless and suffering in body, enfeebled in memory, all that could be shaken, tottering to its base—she came again, to take a last look at the home and the haunts of her childhood.

She went for ten days to North Repps ; the atmosphere of that place was very genial to her. Her sister and she were fellow-mourners, close participators in the greatness of their sorrows, and the vastness of their consolation. They held sweet counsel together ; they dwelt on the blessedness of their departed ones, and together sought and found comfort in the Book of Life.

Whilst there, upon one occasion, Elizabeth Fry spoke of her prayers as constant for those she most closely loved. Being asked how this could be, with other occu-

pations and hindrances, she replied, "It is always in my heart;" adding, "even in sleep I think the heart is ever lifted up," (putting it as no uncommon experience); "it is, if I may venture to say it, living in communion with Christ,"—"in Him"—What should I be without Him!—Where should I stand!" She continued, "I never have known despondency; whatever may have been my depths of suffering in mind or body, still, the confidence has never left me that all was and would be well, if not in time, in eternity—that the end would be peace." "I never lose the feeling of this, and am always on the rock—that conviction never leaves me." "I have been so comforted by the sense of the glory and happiness of those taken, that it has proved a preparation for the sorrows."

After she left Earlham, she came for a few days to Runcton, as it was thought better than her going into Lynn. Her children met her and stayed with her there. She had not been at Runcton since death had last entered that pleasant dwelling; she had greatly loved the mother and the daughter who had successively gladdened and adorned it; she had deeply mourned their loss, and in her weakened state of spirits, sorrowful associations mingled with the enjoyment she experienced, in being again with her brother and his children. She liked their cordial, glowing, welcome, and the affectionate attentions of that young party. It was pleasant to see them occupied, alternately, in performing for her the little offices of love. The old servants vied in attention to her, whilst those who were married away, or lived in the village, pressed to see her, and obtain a word of counsel or kindness.

Before she left Norfolk, she heard of the intended marriage of her youngest son. Nothing could be more agreeable to her than the prospect of this event; towards this, her last-born child, her motherly care had been peculiarly extended. She very much liked her future daughter-in-law,* and her being a Member of the Society of Friends afforded her no small gratification. It was indeed a boon for all who loved her, to feel that she had returned home under a ray of sunshine, and that the brightness of this event was permitted, a little, to lighten the last few months of her home-life, whilst the various arrangements and preparations connected with it, occupied, without wearying her mind, and her attention was in some degree withdrawn from dwelling upon her sorrows and deprivations. In her eldest granddaughter, the first-born of her eldest son,† and bearing her own name, she had during this spring a helpful cheerful companion, who, with the elasticity of youth (which is so pleasant to the infirm and declining), cheered, whilst she cared for her grandmother. She had also many visitors, who came to her in their abundant kindness, for the hearts of all who had ever loved her, were drawn out towards her in tender compassion.

The Duchess of Sutherland and her daughters, the Chevalier Bunsen and his family, and many others, besides her own relatives and connexions, and the excellent of the earth of various denominations, would drive down to Upton Lane, and sit awhile by her side, to mark that "love," which, as George Herbert tells us, is "a present for a mighty King."

* Lucy, daughter of James Sheppard, Esq.

† Afterwards married to Abel Chapman, Esq.

The latter part of May, accompanied by her eldest granddaughter, Elizabeth Fry, she attended two sittings of the women's Yearly Meeting of Friends in London. Elizabeth Fry had for many years been regular in her attendance upon these Meetings, and had taken a lively interest in their proceedings. After an illness so critical, and still in a state of such great infirmity, to see her again amongst them, was scarcely less gratifying to many of the Friends there, than it was interesting to herself. On this occasion she spoke of the Saviour's declaration, "I am the true vine,"—"ye are the branches,"—"as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me." She alluded, in the course of her observations, to the day that is "fast approaching to every one;" but urged the blessed truth on her hearers, that those "who loved, served, and obeyed Him, who alone is worthy of all glory and praise, would find death deprived of its sting, and the grave of its victory." The second Meeting she attended, was one when a Friend named Edwin Tregellis, gave a relation of his missionary labours in the West Indies. This recital drew from her some account of her own travels on the Continent. She afterwards enlarged upon the various instruments, by which God accomplishes His own work in the world.—She referred to the simile of the different living stones, which compose the temple of God.—She addressed those of every age who heard her, especially such as might be compared to the hidden stones of the building.—She encouraged them to go forward fearlessly in the path of righteousness and good works, for though

they might not be so much seen and known, as the more polished stones in the ornamental parts of the structure—though perhaps not so fitted to shine, or to occupy a conspicuous situation—yet were their places each equally ordered, equally important, and equally under the direction and all-seeing eye of the Divine Architect.—She expressed her doubts, as to whether she should again be permitted to meet her beloved Friends in that place.—She offered prayers, her rich full voice filling the house; and concluded with that sublime passage, “Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are Thy ways, thou King of saints.”

On the 3rd of June, Mrs. Fry was present at the Annual Meeting of the Ladies’ British Society. To spare her fatigue, the Committee kindly arranged to hold it in the Friends’ Meeting-house at Plaistow, instead of the one at Westminster, which hitherto had been the place chosen.

At the Committee of the Society, held on the 3rd of the November following, 1845, there was drawn up by its members, a touching memorial of the feelings they entertained towards her.

In it they speak of this Meeting:—

“Contrary to usual custom, the place of Meeting fixed on, was not in London, but at Plaistow in Essex; and the large number of Friends who gathered round her upon that occasion, proved how gladly they came to her, when she could no longer with ease be conveyed to them. The enfeebled state of her bodily frame seemed to have left the powers of her mind unshackled, and she took, though in a sitting posture, almost her usual part

in repeatedly addressing the Meeting. She urged, with increased pathos and affection, the objects of philanthropy and Christian benevolence with which her life had been identified. After the Meeting, and at her own desire, several members of the Committee, and other friends, assembled at her house. They were welcomed by her with the greatest benignity and kindness, and in her intercourse with them, strong were the indications of the heavenly teaching through which her subdued and sanctified spirit had been called to pass. Her affectionate salutation in parting, unconsciously closed, in regard to most of them, the intercourse which they delighted to hold with her, but which can no more be renewed on this side of the eternal world."

When Mrs. Fry attended for the last time the Meeting of the British Ladies' Society, she had the happiness of knowing that Newgate, Bridewell, the Millbank Prison, the Giltspur Street Compter, White Cross Street Prison, Tothill Fields Prison, and Cold Bath Fields Prison, were all in a state of comparative order; some exceedingly well arranged; and the female convicts in all, more or less visited and cared for by ladies—varying according to their circumstances and requirings; the prisons generally throughout England much improved, and in the greater number, ladies encouraged to visit the female convicts.

The return of her youngest son and his bride to Upton Lane, she wished to make as cheerful as under existing circumstances was possible, and in celebration of the event, a large family party was arranged for the garden. She asked the company of her brother and

sister from Ham House, in the following note :—

MY DEAREST SAMUEL AND ELIZABETH,

In true love, I advise your joining our simple evening party, which I humbly trust will be conducted on Christian grounds. The fact is, in my low estate, I felt much indisposed for a large dinner ; I then wished for our dear little children to have some innocent pleasure, and also to show some mark of the deep interest we feel in the bride and bridegroom here, and in the bride and bridegroom elect. We wish to do it in the most simple manner. Remember our most blessed Master attended the wedding-feast.

Your most loving sister, E. F.

She received her guests in a room opening into the flower-garden, and thence was wheeled to the end of the terrace ; a very large family circle surrounded her, many connexions and others of her friends. It was a beautiful scene—the last social family meeting at which she presided ; and although infirm and broken in health, she looked and seemed herself.

In an easy chair, under a large marquee, she entered into animated discourse on various and important topics with the group around her, the Chevalier Bunsen, M. Merle D'Aubigny, Sir Henry Pelly, Josiah Forster, her brother Samuel Gurney, and others of her friends.

An event of great interest shortly followed—the marriage of her faithful niece, Elizabeth Gurney, to Ernest Bunsen. This connexion was one which her aunt liked, inasmuch as she valued the individual, and highly es-

teemed his excellent and gifted parents ; though not unmingled with regret, that the children of her brother and sister, as so many of her own had done, should leave the Society of Friends by marriage, and thus separate themselves from that body of Christians to which their parents were so warmly attached. The wedding took place on the 5th of August ; she joined the party afterwards at Ham House—an occasion of Christian love, unity, and good feeling prevailing over “diversities of administration,” yet all owning “the same Lord.”

The week following, she was moved to a house on Mount Albion at Ramsgate, which had been prepared for her. A roomy bed-chamber adjoining the drawing-room, with pleasant views of the sea, in which she delighted, added to her hourly comfort and enjoyment. She found objects there well suited to her tastes. She distributed tracts when she drove into the country, or went upon the Pier in a Bath chair. Seafaring men have a certain openness of character which renders them more easy of access than others. They would gladly receive her little offerings, and listen to her remarks. She was also anxious to ascertain the state of the Coast Guard Libraries—whether they required renewing, and were properly used.

The party were scarcely established at Ramsgate, when the family of her beloved son William came to them, and remained for some weeks. She delighted in them all ; but little Willie Fry was something to her, almost beyond anything left in the world. He read the Bible to her every morning on her awakening. She strove to impress upon his young mind the value and beauty of

the Christian life ; she endeavoured to cultivate in him a taste for natural objects ; she encouraged drawing and similar pursuits. Partly his name, partly his character, so much resembling his father's in early boyhood—excited her tenderest love.

Her prayer for her daughter and her children, the evening before their departure, was beautiful, comprehensive, and touching ; and so she commended them, whom she was to see no more in the flesh, to Him, who has promised to be a “Husband to the widow, and a Father to the fatherless.” Her eldest son, and her daughter, Richenda Reynolds, with their families, were near her in the town ; and the daily intercourse with them was also a source of much comfort and pleasure to her.

Her sister, Lady Buxton, with her daughter Richenda, went to her on the 17th of September. There was much opportunity for intercourse, after her waking in the morning, and specially during her lengthened toilet ; her sister generally read the Bible with her at these times. She found her mind clear and powerful in spiritual things, enlarging upon them with comprehension of their import ; her heart entirely in the things of God, choosing Him and his service only, seeking first the kingdom of God, with deep earnest constant desires (beyond words to express) for her husband and children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, and all who were dear to her. She was wonderfully alive to all good things going on in the world, receiving with thankfulness any instance of this, without partiality or distinction. After her sister went, her youngest son and his bride stayed a few days with them. Different members

of the family came also to see her. Her son Joseph and his wife left her a grandchild when they went away.

The 14th of September, with a large party of her children, she attended the small Meeting at Drapers, about four miles from Ramsgate. On this occasion she preached a most powerful and remarkable sermon on the nearness of death, and the necessity of immediate preparation and repentance ; for she believed to some of that small congregation it was the eleventh hour of the day.

Her ministrations were much of the same character the two following Sundays. Her brother and sister Gurney stayed near her for some days, and some ladies from Zwolle did the same ; she also valued the near neighbourhood of her kind friends, Sir John and Lady Pirie.

On the 29th, the large family party dispersed. The meeting of the preceding day had been one of great solemnity, and though little imagined at the time, well fitted to be a parting occasion with so many dear to her. The next day, she was left with only her husband and eldest daughter ; but the nursing was too arduous for them to bear alone, and it was a great relief to them when her son-in-law and daughter with their family arrived from Norfolk. At the Pier gate, awaiting them in the carriage, they found their mother. They had not seen her since her visit to Runcton, six months before ; a great change was perceptible. There was a look of heaviness and weight ; she rarely smiled, but on the other hand, far less often looked distressed ; she walked rather better, her appetite was improved, and her nights not so disturbed ; but there was a new symptom—occa-

sionally severe pain in the head. It had first appeared ten days before, and had often been acute, but then was better.

The next Sunday she went as usual to Meeting. On her return, she asked some of the party, who from circumstances had been precluded from accompanying her, if they had had "a comfortable church," her general question when she met any of her children under similar circumstances. Then without waiting to be asked, she said, that they had had "a very remarkable Meeting, such a peculiarly solemn time;" that she had been so impressed by the "need of working whilst it was day, to be ready for the Master's summons, come when He might." Here the subject dropped, but she reverted to it more than once during the day. Those who were present described the occasion as a very peculiar one. She had urged the question, "Are we all now ready! If the Master should this day call us, is the work completely finished? Have we any thing left to do?" Solemnly, almost awfully reiterating the question, "Are we prepared?"

Her habits at this time were apparently those of former times. She was a good deal occupied by writing. She arranged and sorted Bibles, Testaments, and tracts. She had applied to the Bible Society for a grant of foreign Bibles and Testaments, which was liberally acceded to, and in the distribution of which, among the foreign sailors in the harbour, she took great delight. She expected intelligence on subjects that interested her, and was more disposed to carry on objects continuously. She liked having her grandchildren with her; one of them

read her a Psalm invariably before she rose, and whilst dressing, a younger one was in her room, sorting shells under her direction, or looking at the many prints and picture-books, which she had collected for their use.

On Tuesday, when driving out, her lively interest for the good of others appeared if possible greater than ever. Her natural character, acquired habit, and Christian duty, alike combined to strengthen this ; but the judgment and power to direct it had in measure passed away.

On Wednesday, she was grievously distressed by her little grandson, Oswald Cresswell, encountering a fearful accident, one knee slipping through the area bars of a window. It was at least ten minutes before help could be obtained to extricate him. The child's cries, and her knowledge of the fact, though at the time borne apparently well, occasioned a severe return of pain in the head at night, and she was very unwell the next morning, though through the day she had appeared but little the worse for it, and was perfectly self-possessed and judicious in giving directions. The same morning, her friend Mary Fell paid her husband and herself a religious visit ; she derived much comfort from it, as she had done from the society of this long known and valued Friend for some weeks preceding.

Generally, whilst she dressed, one of her daughters sat with their mother. On one occasion, the Bible was opened at the text, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." She entered with lively interest into the subject, and mentioned other passages of somewhat similar import, which were sought

for and read. The participation of the disciple in the sufferings of his Lord, was dwelt upon. She expressed herself with peculiar power, in a manner startling to the hearer. She had, through all her conflicts, seemed to cling to something, like the hope, almost expectation, that the western sky would be bright, that her sun would not set behind clouds ; but now there was no allusion to any idea of the kind. The high privilege of suffering as a member of Christ, was the point she the most dwelt upon. The world, even in its beauty and pleasantness, even the renewed regenerated aspect which it bears to the Christian, appeared to have lost nearly all attraction. She had long done the will of God, to her active mind comparatively an easy duty ; she appeared now to have learned the far harder lesson of being willing to endure it.

There was another wonderful change. Her powerful understanding and great capacity had given her the habit of control—she was accustomed to power. During her long illness, this continued more or less to show itself, and it was not always easy to distinguish, how far her opinions about her own treatment and capabilities were well founded or not. This feature of her character had disappeared. The will seemed wholly broken ; the inclination to resist, or even strongly to desire any thing, passed away ; and she was content to leave little things and great to the direction of others. It was inexpressibly affecting to see her look of meek submission, to hear her plaintive answer, “Just as you like,” to those about her.

One morning of acute suffering, the remark was made to her, How marvellous it was that she never seemed impatient to depart, believing, as there was good ground

to do, that she was through infinite mercy fitted and ready for the great change. Her inherent fear of death had probably prevented this, for there was something in her mind, which caused her, whilst she desired "the kingdom," to shrink from the encounter with the great enemy—the last grapple before the victory can be won. But this too was altered; she expressed her entire "willingness to stay the Lord's time;" that whilst "there was any work for her to do, she wished to live," but beyond that, expressed not the smallest desire for life. She added, that she had come to an entire belief, that any remaining dread would be taken away from her, when the time came, or that in "tender mercy to her timid nature," she should be permitted to pass unconsciously through the dark valley.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE END.

ON THE 10th of October, Mrs. Fry appeared rather better than she had been the few preceding days. She occupied herself that morning in answering a letter from an old and valued friend, who had written to beg her autograph for a young person desirous of possessing it. For this purpose she copied these texts—"We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."—1 Tim. iv 10. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."—John xii. 32. "Therefore, as by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation ; even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."—Romans v. 18.

She then brought out some sheets of Scripture selections, which she had prepared with a view to eventually publishing another Text-Book on the same plan as her former one. She turned over the leaves of her small travelling Bible, without spectacles, to look for others ; she had also written the note in a firm, clear hand, with no glasses. On this being observed to her, she replied, "Oh yes, my eyesight is so much better ;" which was corroborated by her own maid, for many years her de-

voted attendant. This was not a symptom to pass unnoticed ; it bespoke some change.

Later in the morning, whilst she drove out, she was strangely oppressed—scarcely noticed the lovely views of the sea, which she generally so much enjoyed ; but the most unusual thing was, that when her grandchildren were eager to give some tracts, she scarcely noticed their request till repeated two or three times. On passing some open country, where a ruddy farmer's boy was keeping cows, he told the children that he was there all day, that he had nothing to do, and should very much like to have "some reading." Their grandmother made no remark, nor until her tract-bag was put into her hand did she attempt to choose any for him ; and then she did it with a slow distracted air, as if her thoughts were far away. That evening she was heavy and oppressed, and complained of suffering from the light.

These many circumstances, each trifling in itself, weighed together, gave so much cause for uneasiness, that her husband and children resolved the next day to send to Broadstairs, to learn if Dr. Paris were still there, for they had heard of his being at that place a short time before, and to call in his assistance ; but he was gone.

On Saturday morning she awakened, suffering severely in her head. One of her grandchildren went to her at half-past seven o'clock : he read the 27th Psalm, which she asked for. Half an hour later, another went to her. She in no way referred to his brother having been there before, but again asked for the 27th Psalm. Her dressing was very slowly accomplished ; she leaned her head upon her hand, and spoke very little. A text or two

out of "Great and Precious Promises," that excellent selection for the sick chamber, seemed all that she could receive. She had not asked for a child whilst she was dressing, the only morning she had omitted to do so, nor did she remark their absence. She had invited the children of Lady Arthur Lennox, to take their dinner at her luncheon. It was proposed that their coming should be deferred to another day, as she was so uncomfortable, but this she would not allow: when they came she was scarcely able to notice them, and sat looking very ill, leaning her head upon her hand. Afterwards, Lady Arthur Lennox, and her sister, Mrs. Langford Brooke, came for the children; she received them in the drawing-room and conversed a little, but they thought her unwell, and made a very short visit. They had been frequently with her before; they had paid her much kind attention, and their society had been very pleasant to her.

About five o'clock, whilst her husband and daughters were consulting as to the best method in which medical help might be obtained, her bell rung. She was in her own room, according to her usual custom in the afternoon, lying on the sofa, whilst an attendant read to her. She had nearly fallen, in moving from the sofa to her chair by the fire, and help was wanted to accomplish it. After being placed in her chair, she leaned to one side, as if unable to hold herself upright. Her own maid, who was accustomed to her, was alarmed and uneasy, but the little dressing before dinner was completed without difficulty, and she was wheeled into the drawing-room, where it was proposed that she should dine, being nearer to her room than the dining-room. After her dinner, on

attempting to move to the sofa, she twice sunk to the ground, although entirely assisted by two persons. With extreme difficulty she was removed to her bed, where she lay with a calm, almost a torpid expression of countenance. She was quite willing to see a medical man, and answered his questions correctly. The attendance of one so kind and skilful was a great help and comfort, but her worn out constitution forbade stringent remedies, so that little was attempted either by him or the physician, who twice saw her in the course of the following day.

As no fresh symptoms appeared, and she was herself very anxious for it, it was arranged that she should settle as usual for the night. Even at that period, the real seat of the complaint appeared doubtful. A few texts were repeated to her, and her daughters left her to her husband's care, who throughout her lengthened illness attended her by night; but scarcely had they reached their rooms, when her bell rung loudly. Throughout the night, though occasionally for an instant confused, the mind was there. Some passages of Scripture were read to her, which she appeared to comprehend, and she entirely responded to any observation made to her. This was favourable, but other symptoms were not so—she lay so heavily, and the limbs appeared so wholly powerless. The morning broke at last, but it brought no comfort. About six o'clock, she said to her maid, "Oh! Mary, dear Mary, I am very ill!" "I know it dearest ma'am, I know it." "Pray for me—it is a strift, but I am safe." She continued to speak but indistinctly, at intervals, and frequently dosed, as she had done through

the night. About nine o'clock, one of her daughters sitting on her bed-side, had open in her hand that passage in Isaiah, "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel, I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Just then, her mother roused a little, and in a slow distinct voice uttered these words, "Oh! my dear Lord, help and keep thy servant!" These were the last words she spake upon earth—she never attempted to articulate again. A response was given by reading to her the above most applicable passage; one bright glance of intelligence passed over her features, a look of recognition at the well-known sound, but it was gone as rapidly, and never returned. From this time, entire unconsciousness appeared to take possession of her—no sound disturbed her—no light affected her—the voice of affection was unheeded—a veil was between her and the world about her, to be raised no more.

As the morning of Sunday advanced, all hope became extinguished. A messenger was dispatched, to summon those of her absent children, who might be able to come to look upon her once again in life; whilst they who were with her, made ready for the conflict, to go down with her as into the valley of the shadow of death.

The difficulty of breathing, with convulsive spasm, increased, at first occasionally, but after midnight it became almost continuous. From three o'clock there was no pause, but such absolute unconsciousness to every impression, as satisfied those around her, that the anguish

was for them—not for her. Yet as they marked the struggle, the irresistible prayer of their hearts became, “How long, Oh Lord!—how long!”

Suddenly, about twenty minutes before four, there was a change in the breathing; it was but a moment. The silver cord was loosed—a few sighs at intervals—and no sound was there. Unutterably blessed was the holy calm—the perfect stillness of the chamber of death. She saw “the King in His beauty, and the land that is very far off.”

The night had been dark and lowering, but the morning broke gloriously; the sun rose from the ocean, commanded by her chamber windows, and as a globe of living fire,

“Flamed in the forehead of the morning sky.”

The emblem was too beautiful to be rejected—one of the types and shadowings offered by the material world, to illustrate the Christian’s hope.

Before evening, the greater number of her children were assembled at Ramsgate. There was much kindness and attention shown by the inhabitants. Sir Moses Montefiore was deputed to call upon the family, to propose that the hearse bearing her remains should, when taken from Mount Albion, be followed through the town by such gentlemen of the place as inclined to do so, with the shutters closed, and other marks of respect. Arrangements made in Essex prevented the proposal being accepted; but it was none the less gratifying, as a token of the estimation, in which, though so lately

come amongst them, the departed had been held. The different members of her family successively quitted Ramsgate, till none remained but her eldest son and one of his brothers-in-law, who stayed to share with him the sad office of following the hearse to Upton. They travelled through the night.

Monday at noon was fixed for her funeral. In the grey of the early morning, the loved, the revered, was brought for the last time, for a few short hours, to her home of many years. Vast numbers of persons attended the funeral. The procession passed between the grounds of Plashet House, her once happy home, and those of Plashet Cottage. In the Friend's burying-ground at Barking her grave was prepared, close by that of her little child, whom she had loved and lost, and tenderly mourned so many years before. There is no appointed funeral service amongst Friends. A deep silence prevailed throughout the multitudes gathered there. Her brother, Joseph John Gurney, was the first to address the assembly, and by him solemn prayer was offered. Then her immediate family withdrew to the shelter and recollections of Upton Lane.

Afterwards, a Meeting was held in a tent erected specifically for this solemn occasion. Much was brought forward from the Treasury of Scripture, of consolation, of warning and encouragement for the listeners assembled there. Of her, whose remains were laid at rest in the "house appointed for all living," no language could be more descriptive in life, or in death, than that glorious passage from the Revelations, then emphatically applied to her—"And I heard a voice from heaven,

saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

THE END.

BOUND BY
WORDS & REMNANT
LONG

Cresswell, Francis

A Memoir of Elizabeth Fry By her Daughter Francis Cresswell. Abridged from
the larger Memoir with Alterations and Additions

London 1856

Biogr. 430 pu

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